

Glorious Forty Years of Creation

A large, ornate decorative element in yellow with black outlines, featuring symmetrical scrollwork and leaf-like patterns on either side of the central text.

I



Song of the Proclamation of the People's Republic

1. *From the Heavenly Lake on Mount
Paekdu to Cheju Island
The thirty millions rose up under a new
flag unfurled.
Mountains and rivers, sing the emotion
of this day
Korea, Korea is a glorious people's
country*

(Refrain)

*O free Korea, the people's Republic
Sun and stars, light the road ahead
for the motherland*

This song was composed in 1948 in praise of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea founded by the respected leader Comrade Kim Il Sung on September 9 of that year, which made it possible for the Korean people to embark on building a new society, a new life.

Glorious Forty Years of Creation

(August 1945—July 1953)

I

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1988**



The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung calling upon the Korean people to build an independent state through their own efforts

Editor's Note

The Foreign Languages Publishing House is pleased to publish this book, *GLORIOUS FORTY YEARS OF CREATION*, which covers a part of the leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, a strategist and practician of the revolution and a genius of the creation and construction, who has overcome every hardship and ordeal that the Korean revolution has faced and who has brought about epoch-making changes in every aspect of the state's activities—political, economic, cultural and military—for over 40 years since the brilliant victory in the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

This book is compiled on the basis of the experiences recalled by his guardians, the veteran revolutionaries who either held or hold important positions in the Party and the state. They are Comrades Kim Il, Kang Ryang Uk, O Jin U, Li Jong Ok, Pak Sung Chul, Rim Chun Chu, Choe Hyon, O Baek Ryong, Kim Yong Nam, Hyon Mu Gwang, Li Ul Sol, Chon Mun Sop and Kim Man Gum.

This book will be published in three volumes.

The first volume of *GLORIOUS FORTY YEARS OF CREATION* (August 1945—July 1953) is issued on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

1988



CONTENTS

I. THE FIRST STEP TO CREATION AND CONSTRUCTION	1
1) The Path of New Korea	1
2) Foundation of a New-type Revolutionary Party . . .	6
3) A Mass Rally to Welcome Comrade Kim Il Sung's Triumphant Return to the Homeland	15
4) Visit to the Old Home at Mangyongdae	19
5) Patriotic Young People Rallied under the Democratic Banner	22
6) The Formation of the Democratic National United Front	25
7) The Implementation of the Party's Political and Organizational Lines	36
8) A Genuine People's Government	41
II. LEADING THE DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTION TO VICTORY	46
1) Agrarian Reform	46
2) Nationalization of Industries	56
3) Enforcement of Labour Law	57
4) Equal Rights to Women	60
5) The Question of National Cadres	62

6) The First Bonfire of the Movement for Nation-Building	68
7) The Great Leader Received South Korean Reporters	71
8) Messrs. Ho Hon and Ryo Un Hyong, Patriotic Democrats in South Korea	75
9) Developing the Communist Party into a Mass Political Party	79
III. REVOLUTION TO A HIGHER STAGE	84
1) The First Democratic Elections	84
2) A General Ideological Mobilization Movement for Nation-Building	90
3) The First National Economic Plan	94
4) To Provide Life-giving Water	98
5) New History of a "Golden Mountain"	100
6) Pencil Production Placed on the Agenda	103
7) The Campaign to Wipe Out Illiteracy	106
8) For the Flowering of Brilliant National Culture and Arts	108
9) Love for the Children of Revolutionary Martyrs	113
10) The Development of a Modern Regular Army	118
IV. ALL EFFORTS FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF THE DEMOCRATIC BASE AND THE REUNIFICATION AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE COUNTRY	122
1) The Second Congress of the Workers' Party of North Korea	122
2) The April Joint Conference of North and South	125
3) Historic Birth of Juche Korea	137

4) A New Work Attitude	143
5) Initiatives for the Independent and Peaceful Reunification	150
V. A COUNTEROFFENSIVE TO CRUSH THE US INVADERS	156
1) "The Americans Have Misjudged the Koreans"	156
2) The Operation to Liberate Seoul	163
3) To Counter a Large-scale US Military Offensive	167
4) <i>The True Records of the Li Dynasty</i> Was Brought to Safety	171
5) A Great Encirclement Operation	173
VI. RADICAL CHANGE IN THE WAR SITUATION	180
1) To Meet a Sudden Change in the Situation	180
2) His Care for a Scientist	182
3) A Young Soldier's Reply	183
4) At a Hunting Ground	184
5) The Third Plenary Meeting of the Party Central Committee	186
6) His Warm Love for the People	192
VII. FOR THE FINAL VICTORY IN THE WAR	198
1) US Imperialists Proposed Armistice Talks	198
2) Effective Use of Artillery	202
3) On Which Section Would the Enemy Launch Drive?	203
4) The Battle Defending Height 1211	207
5) The Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Party Central Committee	212

6) The Historic February Speech	215
7) “Don’t Worry, Premier!”	219
8) A Party Cell Meeting in Hajang-ri	221
9) “Don’t Wake up the Hostess.”	224
10) Far-sighted Plans for Postwar Rehabilitation	226
11) A Feature Film <i>To the Front Line Again</i>	229
12) The Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Party Central Committee	231
13) The Enemy’s “New Offensive” Crushed	237
14) Hard Strikes Aimed at Final Victory	239
15) The Plaza of War Victory	243



I. THE FIRST STEP TO CREATION AND CONSTRUCTION

1) THE PATH OF NEW KOREA

The Great Leader's Return in Triumph

On August 15, 1945 Korea was liberated from the fetters of Japanese imperialist colonial rule.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, the legendary hero and sun of the nation, returned to the homeland in triumph after achieving the historic cause of national liberation.

For twenty years since the unforgettable day when he crossed the Amnok River at the tender age of 13, firmly determined never to return to his homeland until it had regained its independence, he had struggled underground, braving the enemy's ceaseless shadowing and the constant danger to his life, and then conducted the armed struggle which involved arduous marches and continual fierce battles. After twenty long years of fighting against the Japanese in the wilderness of Manchuria in order to win back the sovereignty of the country and to bring freedom and liberation to the people, he finally led the revolutionary struggle to victory. Then the great leader returned to the homeland in command of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army.

The country's liberation and the respected leader's triumphant return created the greatest jubilation our people had ever known in all their five thousand years of history. This was a momentous event that would be remembered down through generations to come.

Everywhere people embraced one another and shouted at the tops of their voices, "Long live General Kim Il Sung!" and "Long live Korea's independence!" with smiles on their faces and tears in their eyes.

The country was in an ecstasy of delight, and the people were overwhelmed with gratitude to the great leader and with reverence for him.

The great leader returned to his homeland with a magnificent plan for building a new country. He immediately set to work to open up a new era of creation and construction. He did not take any time off at all to relax and recover from the fatigue that he had accumulated during the twenty years of the anti-Japanese struggle.

Political Workers Were Sent to the Provinces

The situation in liberated Korea and abroad was developing in favour of our people's struggle to build a new country.

The liberated people embarked on creating a new democratic life while crushing the last evil schemes of the Japanese imperialists and exposing those who collaborated with the Japanese and betrayed the nation.

Democratic political parties, social organizations and people's committees began to be formed in all parts of the country. Efforts were being made to remove the effects of Japanese imperialist colonial rule in all fields of politics, the

economy and culture and to build a new state which would be free and independent.

However, the US imperialists occupied south Korea and this made the national situation very complex.

From the day they set foot on the soil of south Korea, they enforced military government. They dissolved by force the people's committees which had been organized on the initiative of the people and ruthlessly put down the patriotic advance of the democratic forces. Meanwhile, they realigned the reactionary forces and made them their minions.

As a result, the reactionary elements began to raise their heads again. In line with the evil schemes of the US imperialists, they obstructed the building of a democratic new Korea.

That was not all. Those who had betrayed the revolutionary cause as well as political hypocrites of every description made their appearance. They tried to turn the confusion that prevailed in the days immediately after liberation to their political advantage and schemed to win over the people.

The prevailing situation was very complicated and required decisive action.

In this situation, the great leader sent political workers to the provinces in order to speed up the building of a new Korea. He explained to them what their first tasks were. They had to get on close terms with the local people, show them the path a new Korea should take, accelerate the preparations to form the revolutionary party of the working class, establish public order by organizing people's government organs, reconstruct and improve the damaged industries, and so on.

Seeing the political workers off at the railway station, he advised them to maintain a high degree of revolutionary vigilance wherever they went and to take care of their health.

After sending them to the provinces, the great leader, still in the military uniform which he used to wear during the armed struggle, got down to the historic task of building the party, the state and the army.

Which Path Liberated Korea Should Take?

Everything was damaged and life was very hard, but the people's spirits were sky-high.

Although the people were full of enthusiasm for nation-building, they did not know which path to pursue.

Even those who claimed that they had once taken part in the communist movement or in the nationalist movement, to say nothing of the workers and peasants, were at a loss to know which path Korea should take.

That this was the focal point of issue was also clear from the reports from the political workers who were operating in different provinces.

This situation was not surprising, however, because the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung's line of nation-building was not yet widely known to the public. Worse still, spokesmen for different forces were springing up everywhere and, claiming to be "revolutionaries" and "patriots", advertising their own "doctrines and propositions", clamouring about the path Korea should take and mocking at the aspirations of the people.

Some of them were preposterous enough to advocate the revival of the feudal system. Others harped on about establishing a bourgeois republic preaching "people's rights" or "democracy".

There were others who asserted that our country should follow the path of socialism immediately.

Under these circumstances, it was impossible to harness the soaring revolutionary enthusiasm of the masses properly in the construction of a new country unless the masses were shown clearly the road Korea should take.

Indeed, it was absolutely vital to refute the misleading assertions of the reactionaries and of the Right and “Left” opportunists and indicate the road that must be followed by liberated Korea.

In his historic lecture, “On Progressive Democracy”, delivered to the students of the Pyongyang Worker-Peasant Political School on October 3, 1945, the great leader, with a clear insight into the requirements of the developing revolution, showed Korea the road it should take. He said:

“The road Korea should take is the road to progressive democracy, true democracy. Only this road will give our people freedom, rights and a happy life and guarantee the country full independence and sovereignty.”

The great leader said that in the work of founding a state our requirements must neither be below nor above the present level of historical development. He emphasized that the Korean people must build a democratic people’s republic, an independent and sovereign state, which was based on progressive democracy and would provide everyone with freedom and happiness. He also explained the characteristics of progressive democracy in the following vein:

Independence is an essential feature of progressive democracy. This means building an independent state which neither tolerates foreign intervention nor is subjugated to another country. Progressive democracy is also characteristic of coalition. It requires the formation of a national united front which embraces all the patriotic classes, political parties and other organizations that are opposed to imperialism. It

also requires the coalition of all sections of the population who love the country.

However, lacking a correct understanding of these requirements of our democracy, some people raised the motto “unity without discrimination”. They argued that even the enemies of the people should be admitted to the united front. Meanwhile, some other people raised a “Leftist” slogan which meant rejecting even those people who could be won over. They retarded the coalition of all the patriotic forces.

The great leader said that strenuous efforts should be made to form the national united front properly in keeping with the essential requirements of progressive democracy, to unite the broad masses and set up a people’s government by enlisting their enthusiasm for nation-building.

Our people embarked on the road of progressive democracy, the road indicated by the great leader, and advanced vigorously towards the foundation of a prosperous, civilized and democratic new Korea.

2) FOUNDATION OF A NEW-TYPE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

Preparations for Founding the Party

After liberation the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung paid attention first to the work of founding the Communist Party of Korea, the General Staff of the Korean revolution and the vanguard of the working class. He did so because it was essential to have a revolutionary party of the working class if the working class and broad sections of the democratic forces were to be rallied closely in the cause of the

revolution and the revolution and construction were to be successfully guided.

The complex revolutionary situation immediately after liberation also required that the revolutionary party of the working class should be formed without delay. Simultaneous with the emergence of communist party organizations in all parts of the country after liberation, the bourgeois nationalists were also stepping up their campaign to form political parties. In south Korea there were even political parties of pro-Japanese and pro-American groups and traitors beginning to emerge.

Political parties of every description put forward fascinating political programmes and tried hard to attract as many people as possible.

Without establishing the revolutionary working-class party it was impossible to prevent the division of the masses and strengthen the Juche-orientated revolutionary forces, nor was it possible to press on with the work of setting up the people's government and building up the people's armed forces.

Many difficulties and obstacles stood in the way of founding the party after liberation.

The factional elements, who had been doing a great deal of harm to the communist movement in Korea for a long time, as well as those who had betrayed the revolution were gathering and confusing the ranks of communists.

Those who had been jailed for illicit dealing in opium after deserting the revolutionary cause came out in the guise of "underground fighters". The would-be Marxists who had surrendered to the enemy, unable to withstand the hardships and dangers, and had been in hiding, now bustled about in public, shouting "Long live the proletariat!" Some of them had become secret agents of the enemy a long time before.

The factionalists vied with one another in setting up the

signboards of a communist party and began to revive their factions which had already gone bankrupt way back in the 1920's.

Factional strife was rife especially in Seoul.

Pak Hon Yong, who had betrayed the revolution long before liberation and had become a spy on the pay-roll of the US imperialists, emerged in disguise and cooked up his "Korean Communist Party Centre" by rallying those who had been affiliated with the Tuesday group, a faction of the old Korean Communist Party. He was clamouring that the communist organizations must obey him. Meanwhile, those who had been involved in the M-L group, another faction, also set themselves up under the sign of the "Communist Party" overnight and stood against the Tuesday group.

The US imperialists were trying to prevent the revolutionary forces from rallying and the revolutionary party from being founded by taking advantage of the divisive activities of the factionalists and resorting to every underhand trick at their disposal.

In spite of these difficulties and obstacles, the great leader stood at the helm without the slightest vacillation and pushed ahead with the work of establishing the party.

To begin with, he laid down the policy of founding the party by forming the backbone from the hard-core communists who had been trained and seasoned in the arduous revolutionary struggle against the Japanese and by enlisting the communists who had been working in different places.

The stalwart communists, the veterans who had fought against the Japanese imperialists, were to become the backbone because they were essential for the formation of a Juche-orientated and truly revolutionary party and for the sound development of the party. They would also enable the party to be founded on a broad basis, to implement the great

Juche idea and the Juche-orientated line of the Korean revolution properly, and to prevent the division of the communist ranks.

Of course, many of the communists who had been working in different places had not been tested. But it was impossible in the circumstances of the time to examine their records individually before they were admitted to the party.

The great leader took the view that they should be admitted to the party and then tested through practical work and educated. He judged that since the party's backbone would be formed from those stalwart communists, the veteran anti-Japanese fighters, it was possible to maintain and strengthen the unity of the party while educating and assimilating those untested people even if they were admitted to the party in large numbers.

The next pressing task was to organize a powerful central party leadership body, the Central Organizing Committee of the Communist Party of North Korea, by turning the favourable conditions in the north to good account.

It was impossible to organize a united party that would enlist all the communists throughout Korea at once because the US imperialists were occupying south Korea, on which they imposed brutal military government. It was also impossible to wait until developments were favourable for the formation of such a united party. The striking contrast between the developments in the two parts of Korea demanded that the revolution should be advanced and the work of founding the party pushed forward as appropriate to the regional characteristics of the situation.

In order to ensure that the party was founded successfully, the great leader took a keen interest in the work of improving and expanding the local party organizations and of organizing those communists who had been working individually.

For this purpose he dispatched anti-Japanese revolutionary veterans to the provinces and major cities and counties on a mission to carry out political work. Meanwhile, he himself met some of the communists who had been working separately in the homeland, explaining to them the policy of founding the party. He also toured the provincial areas, acquainting himself with the situation of the local party organizations, in an effort to press on with the preparations for the foundation of the party.

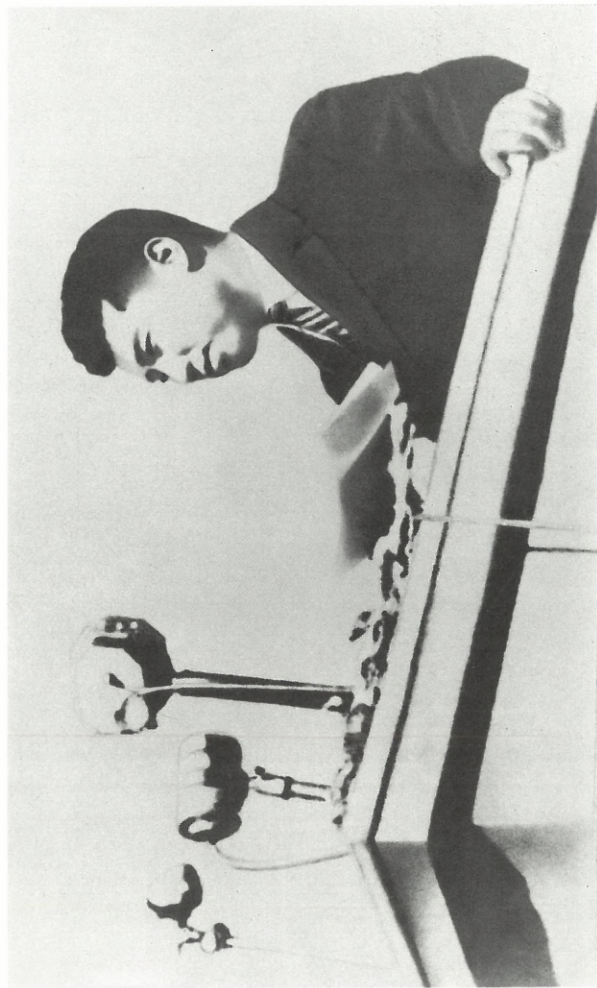
An anti-Japanese revolutionary veteran, Comrade Rim Chun Chu (the late Vice-President of the DPRK), was sent to do political work in one place which then belonged to South Pyongan Province (now a suburb of Pyongyang). He remembered how the great leader met and educated the senior official of the provincial party organization.

The senior official told the great leader everything he knew about the activities and political attitudes of the communists who had been working in the homeland as well as the general situation in the province. The official said that, although he was in charge of the provincial party organization, he knew practically nothing and was so inexperienced that he was at a loss what to tackle and how to deal with everything in the chaotic situation.

The great leader talked to him deep into the night, explaining to him the situation in the country after liberation, the character and objective of our revolution, the immediate tasks, and the policy for founding the party and the way to implement it. The following day was also taken up answering a host of questions from the official.

He met many other communists who had been working in the homeland, among them quite a few who had come from south Korea across the demarcation line.

In the process, he was able to assess the abilities of these



**General Kim Il Sung delivering a speech on his triumphant return
at the Pyongyang mass rally to welcome him**



The Arch of Triumph



The house where General Kim Il Sung lived after his triumphant return to the liberated homeland



President Kim Il Sung's reunion with his grandmother after a 20 year separation at his birthplace—Mangyongdae



The beloved leader Comrade Kim Il Sung breaking the soil to make a beginning for the Potong River improvement project



This is the historic building where the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung proclaimed the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea on October 10, 1945



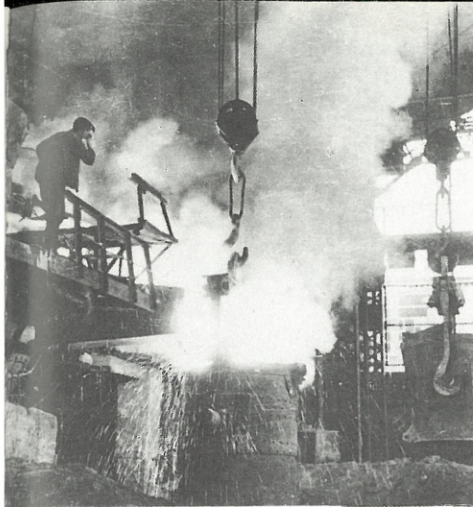
President Kim Il Sung announces “The Political Programme of the Government of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea” at the first session of the Supreme People’s Assembly of the DPRK



The Pyongyang mass meeting celebrating the foundation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea



This, the Seoul City People's Committee Building, was destroyed by the American imperialist aggressors when they landed in south Korea

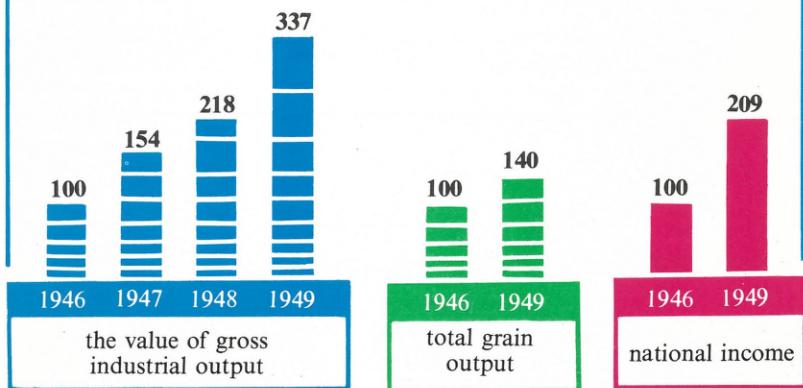


Casting work for increased production at the Songjin Steel Plant

The people working all out for the completion of the large-scale Pyongnam Irrigation Project



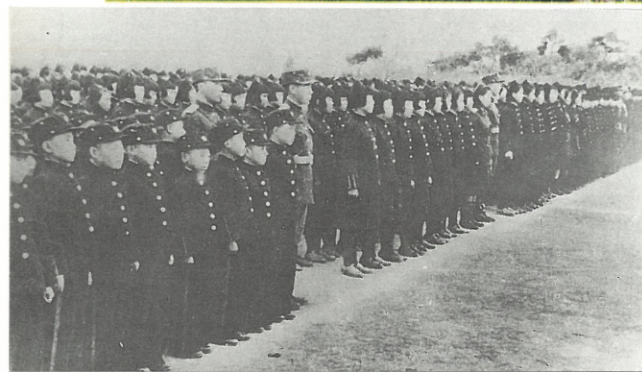
THE GROWTH (PERCENTAGE) OF THE TOTAL VALUE OF INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT AND OF TOTAL GRAIN OUTPUT





The main building of Kim Il Sung University, the first people's university in our country

Mangyongdae Revolutionary School and its first pupils



communists, the state of affairs within party organizations at different levels, and to acquaint himself with the evil schemes of the factionalists.

In view of the fact that the communists were not well-qualified for political, ideological and practical work, he said that these people should be approached generously and guided kindly, and that the provincial party organizations would have to be strengthened first.

The party organization of South Pyongan Province, for instance, was still in the making. Several people who had allegedly taken part in the communist movement before liberation got together and designated themselves the local party. They did not even know each other well or what each had been doing previously. So they had to be identified through individual talks before they were registered, and promising people singled out and hypocrites and heterogeneous elements spotted and eliminated. The next thing to do was to select party organizers, give them short courses and assign them to subordinate organizations.

The political workers who had been sent to the provincial areas performed these tasks in a short period of time. They sorted out the party organizations of the cities, counties, sub-counties, ri, factories and other enterprises and formed new party organizations where necessary.

In this manner the preparations for founding the party made rapid progress.

The Formation of the Central Organizing Committee of the Communist Party of North Korea

Party organizations were formed throughout north Korea

and rooted among the masses. Party committees with their departments were organized in the provinces and counties and party cells were formed in the industrial establishments and farm villages.

While directing the work of consolidating and expanding the local party organizations the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung concentrated on the task of setting up the Central Organizing Committee of the Communist Party of North Korea. In this work he had to combat the divisive manoeuvres of the factionalists.

In order to promote the fundamental interests of our revolution, he adopted the policy of enlisting and educating even those who had been involved in faction if they repented of their crime and were resolved to work for the revolution with devotion. On the other hand, he exposed even the slightest manifestation of factional elements there and then hit them hard without compromise.

The factionalists and local separatists did not abandon their factional habits readily. As the local Party organizations became consolidated, their factional activities grew more underhand and vicious. They were more blatant with regard to the question of the establishment of the Central Organizing Committee of the Communist Party of North Korea.

They put forward the spurious argument that "if a central organizing committee is formed in north Korea while Korea is divided into north and south, the Party will be divided." They openly insisted that the "Seoul centre" which was rigged up by a factional group should be recognized as the authentic central party leadership body.

As for the "Seoul centre" they were clamouring for, it was manufactured overnight without any foundation. That was a "central organization" produced by the factionalists who had undermined the communist movement in Korea in the past

and by those who had deserted the revolutionary cause. Their scheme suffered a due rebuff, of course.

On October 5, 1945, the great leader convened a preliminary meeting for the foundation of the working-class party. Then on October 10 the same year he called the historic Inaugural Congress of the Central Organizing Committee of the Communist Party of North Korea.

In his historic report to the Congress, entitled “On Building a Marxist-Leninist Party in Our Country and Its Immediate Tasks”, the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung made a detailed analysis of the political situation at home and abroad and proposed the formation of the Central Organizing Committee of the Communist Party of North Korea to provide authentic central Party leadership. Then he clarified the Party’s organizational and political lines.

He said:

“The Communist Party we are going to build should be the true vanguard detachment of the Korean working class; it should be a mighty political General Staff capable of steadily leading the Korean revolution to victory. If we are to build such a revolutionary party we must base ourselves strictly on the Marxist-Leninist principles of party building.”

The gist of what he said about the Party’s organizational line was that the organizational backbone of the Party must be built up, that the Party’s unity of ideology, purpose and action must be secured on the basis of one guiding ideology, and that a strict discipline must be established.

Referring to the Party’s political line in his report, the great leader emphasized that the Party’s basic political task was to establish a Democratic People’s Republic and develop our country to be a prosperous, democratic, independent and sovereign state.

Emanating from this basic political task were the major tasks facing the Party.

First, an endeavour should be made to build the Democratic People's Republic through the unity of all the patriotic, democratic forces.

Second, the remnants of Japanese imperialism and all the other reactionary forces should be swept away so as to expedite the democratic development of the country.

Third, the main foundation for the building of an independent, democratic state should be laid by forming a people's committee, a genuine people's organ of power, in each district, carrying out democratic reforms, reconstructing and developing the economy and raising the people's material and cultural standards of living.

Fourth, in order to fulfil all these tasks, the Communist Party should be expanded and strengthened, and the work of public organizations promoted dynamically.

Thus the building of the Democratic People's Republic would have to be accelerated, and a powerful democratic base developed in the northern half of Korea on which to establish a prosperous, democratic, independent and sovereign state.

Guided by this explicit political line, our Party and people were able to advance confidently on the straight road of building the state even in the complex situation that existed after liberation.

The delegates from all parts of the country, even those who came to the Congress with different dreams and ambitions, gave unqualified support and approval to the report presented by the great leader.

The Congress adopted the Party's organizational and political lines and formed the Central Organizing Committee of the Communist Party of North Korea, the central Party

leadership. Thus our Party declared its birth to the whole world.

The foundation of the Communist Party was the brilliant result of all the historic, painstaking efforts made by the great leader to organize a revolutionary party of the working class from the day when he first embarked on the road of revolution.

As a result of the establishment of the Communist Party, our people became a dignified people who were under the leadership of their General Staff of the revolution, the indestructible guiding force. As such they became a strong national detachment in the ranks of the forces of the world revolution in which they took a legitimate part.

3) A MASS RALLY TO WELCOME COMRADE KIM IL SUNG'S TRIUMPHANT RETURN TO THE HOMELAND

While the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung was working day and night after his victorious return to the homeland, the people, who did not know how busy he was, were waiting impatiently for the historic moment when they would see their respected leader.

In factories, rural communities, streets, villages and everywhere else, the people were talking about the great leader, recounting legendary anecdotes about him.

Everyone said that he knew best about the great leader. Somebody remarked that he had heard when he was fifteen or sixteen that General Kim Il Sung was fighting in Mt. Paekdu against the Japanese. He added that he was now nearly thirty, so the General must be well on the other side of fifty.

Another man said that the General was able to grip the earth in his hand and shake it as he pleased and pass like lightning over mountains, appearing now in the east, now in the west, so he must be unlike any ordinary man in physical constitution and appearance. These simple remarks expressed their absolute trust in their respected leader and their high respect for him as well as their noble sense of national pride and dignity derived from being under the leadership of this great man.

Their longing to see the great leader grew intense as the days went by. One day rumour had it that General Kim Il Sung would be marching into Pyongyang at the head of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army. It spread from mouth to mouth among all the citizens of Pyongyang. It was also rumoured that the General was coming to Seoul, although heaven only knew who was the source of the rumour.

In Pyongyang and Seoul and in all parts of the country, people were bustling with preparations for welcoming the great leader, waiting for him impatiently.

It was not until the great leader had shown the road the country should take and founded the Party that our people's desire to see him was realized.

On the afternoon of October 13, 1945, an aeroplane was circling in the sky over Pyongyang, sounding a low drone and dropping leaflets all over the city.

"General Kim Il Sung, the hero of the Korean nation, has arrived in Pyongyang!"

"General Kim Il Sung will meet the citizens of Pyongyang in the Moranbong Public Playground tomorrow!"

At this exciting news, the people were unable to repress their surging emotion and shouted at the tops of their voices,

“Long live General Kim Il Sung!” They jumped about, embracing each other.

On October 14, 1945, a grand mass rally was held in Pyongyang to welcome the great leader home in triumph.

From early morning crowds of people thronged to the stadium (the site of the present Kim Il Sung Stadium) at the foot of Moran Hill, to the playground where the mass rally was going to be held.

Workers and peasants from the suburbs joined the citizens of Pyongyang. People came by train from such distant places as Sinuiju, Kanggye, Hamhung, Wonsan, and Haeju. There were even some among the crowd who had come from Seoul and Kaesong across the 38th parallel.

Soon the playground was thronged with people in their holiday attire, waving flags and bunches of flowers in their hands. The Ulmil Pavilion and Choesung Pavilion on Moran Hill and the other hillocks surrounding the playground and even the trees were full of people who wished to see the great leader and hear his voice if only from a distance. Indeed, the place was a sea of people.

At one o'clock in the afternoon, the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, the legendary hero and the sun of our nation, appeared on the platform of the mass rally.

At that moment the whole place was like a sea of swaying flowers as a storm of cheers suddenly broke out.

Presently, the sonorous voice of the respected leader resounded across the playground.

“Dear fellow countrymen,

“I should like to express warm thanks to you for giving us such an enthusiastic welcome today.”

In his speech, the great leader said that now that the cherished desire for national liberation had become reality, the Korean people were faced with the historic task of

building a new Korea. From now onwards, he said, the Korean people must press on with the work of building their own state and achieving complete national independence. He proceeded to put forward the political, economic and cultural tasks for the building of a prosperous, democratic new Korea.

He stressed that success in carrying out these historic tasks was entirely dependent on how our people would apply themselves to the struggle. He called on them to let those with strength give their strength, let those with knowledge give their knowledge, let those with money give their money, and to let all the people unite closely and build an independent and sovereign democratic state.

His speech moved all the people deeply and inspired them with high hopes.

The following day's *Pyongyang Minbo* wrote about the enthusiastic welcome he received at the rally under the headline: "Cheers of 400,000 People Rock the Mountains and Rivers of Korea Like an Embroidered Pattern on a Brocade".

"Pyongyang has a long history of 4,000 years, and it has a population of 400,000 people. But has such a large crowd ever assembled in one place before? Have they ever had such a significant meeting?...

"As soon as General Kim Il Sung, whom the Korean people most deeply adore and have been looking forward to meeting, appeared at the meeting, a storm of enthusiastic cheers arose, and everyone who was assembled was deeply moved and shed silent tears of joy."

The Seoul Sinmun also carried the news of the Pyongyang welcome rally in banner headlines on the front page alongside a photograph of the great leader.

4) VISIT TO THE OLD HOME AT MANGYONGDAE

As the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung was stepping down from the platform, his aunt who was attending the rally hurried to his side.

The respected leader stopped and looked at her for a while. Then he said with a broad smile on his face, "Aunt, how have you been?"

He squeezed her hands. She gazed at him for a while with tears in her eyes and then said, "General, do you recognize me?"

"How can I forget you, Aunt?"

The respected leader took his aunt to his house.

When he got home he found that his uncle, Kim Hyong Rok, had already called there.

When his aunt asked the General whether he had managed to find his younger brother, he seemed to lapse into deep thought. Then he said that he would like to locate a number of other people first, people to whom his family owed a great deal, among them a man named Hwang who helped his father escape from the police when his father was being escorted to Huchang Police Station after being arrested at Popyong, a man named Kim who hid his father in a shed on a mountain and helped him across the Amnok River, and the kind-hearted people who gave the General whole-hearted assistance when he was fighting the Japanese. Besides, he added, there were many revolutionary martyrs' families whose whereabouts he ought to enquire first, not his younger brother.

When everyone was in reverent silence, the General looked at his aunt for a while and then resumed, "Auntie, you are still young. You have to live longer for the years my mother might have lived. Sometimes I miss my mother almost beyond endurance, the more so now that I am back here in the homeland alone. Mother loved me so much. Maternal love is great, indeed. I still remember clearly her image the last time we parted."

With deep emotion he related how his ailing mother rebuked him for bringing a *mal* of foxtail millet to her on the eve of his departure on an expedition to South Manchuria after organizing the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army. She told him that a man dedicated to the great cause of national liberation should not worry about his own home. He recalled how she gave him twenty *won*, the money which she had saved penny by penny, advising him that a man must have some money in his pocket to fall back on in emergency, and how she cut her precious hair and spread it on the soles of his boots.

That day the great leader went to Mangyongdae, his native village.

Hearing that the great leader was visiting the place, all the people of Mangyongdae came out to meet him and welcomed him enthusiastically.

"You are back home at last! Am I awake or am I dreaming?" said his grandmother (Li Bo Ik) in a voice choked with emotion. She hugged her grandson at the entrance to the village, and he took her firmly in his arms.

For twenty long years since he left home, his grandmother had lived stoutly, repressing all her sorrows and waiting for the return of her grandson who was fighting the Japanese imperialists. She was so delighted at his return and so proud

of him that she patted him on the back and looked up at him over and over again.

As they came near to his old home, his grandfather, though infirm, hurried out without even remembering to put his shoes on, and hugged him.

The villagers crowded in and out of the house.

Presently, a simple reception was given in honour of the great leader. He offered a glass of wine to his grandfather and to each of the village elders. He did so not as the respected leader of the whole nation, but as the eldest grandson of the revolutionary family, as a token of his greetings to the village elders.

He spent the night with his grandparents as a loving grandson of the family as he used to do in his childhood days.

At that time the house was under repair, and the walls had only been daubed with mud so that draught of cold air was still filtering in.

His family and the other villagers were reluctant to let the General stay in such a room, the General who had returned home after twenty years' absence. They were going to have a comfortable room furnished for him at a neighbour's.

When he learned of this, the great leader said, "Grandfather, I will sleep in this room. In your room, Grandfather and Grandmother. I have been used to sleeping wrapped in dry leaves for fifteen years, so why can't I sleep in this room?" He slipped into the quilts of cotton made by his grandmother and lay down beside his grandfather.

Indeed, it was an eventful day, an unforgettable day.

Reporting the great leader's visit to his old home under the banner headline "The Flowering House of a Revolutionary Family", the paper *Pyongyang Minbo* said proudly, "Today Mangyongdae is accorded the honour of being the Mangyongdae of Korea, no, the Mangyongdae of the world."

5) PATRIOTIC YOUNG PEOPLE RALLIED UNDER THE DEMOCRATIC BANNER

The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung worked hard to rally the masses organizationally around the Party.

In this work, it was particularly important to unite the young people and students into a single organization. This was vital to the country's future.

In those days, however, the students and other young people were affiliated to a number of different organizations so their ranks lacked unity.

The Young Communist League which was organized immediately after liberation admitted only those young proletarians who accepted the communist ideology. For instance, in North Pyongan Province where the late Vice-President of the Republic Kim Il, an anti-Japanese veteran, was working, many patriotic and democratic-minded youngsters were not admitted to the Young Communist League because of their backgrounds. More often than not even young workers and peasants who were eligible for membership remained onlookers, instead of joining the league. The Young Communist League was not suitable for uniting broad sections of the young people.

Beside the Young Communist League there were the Young Men's Christian Association, the Paegui Youth League and other young people's organizations. They had influence on some strata of the young people, and different political parties were also trying to attract them.

In this situation, unless they were brought into a single organization capable of enlisting the young people from all

walks of life, it was impossible to unite the young people who constituted a major revolutionary force. Worse still, the situation threatened a complete split of the youth movement in our country.

Sizing up the development of the youth movement in our country, the great leader put forward the policy of reorganizing the Young Communist League into a Democratic Youth League, a mass youth organization, and of enlisting the patriotic-minded young people from all walks of life in the single organization under the slogan, "Patriotic young people, unite under the banner of democracy!" He took pains to guide them in the struggle to implement this policy. In order to make this work successful, the great leader saw to it that an Organizing Preparatory Committee was formed, that a Conference of Young Democratic Activists was convened, and that the conference adopted the Programme and Rules of the Democratic Youth League and issued a declaration calling upon the patriotic democratic youth to unite under the banner of democracy.

The Conference of Young Democratic Activists was held in Pyongyang on October 29, 1945 under the guidance of the great leader.

At the conference the great leader made a very important speech that indicated the direction and the tasks of the Korean youth movement. In his speech he analysed the complex situation in our country. He explained the character and the immediate tasks of our revolution. And he gave instructions that the youth movement in our country must break out boldly from the narrow framework of the Young Communist League and develop into a democratic youth movement, and that the members of the Young Communist League must enter the Democratic Youth League and become the hard core of

the new organization. He emphasized that the Democratic Youth League must be guided by the Communist Party.

After the conference, a meeting of young activists was held in each province, centring on the members of the Young Communist League. The meeting decided on the specific measures to merge the different youth organizations into a single entity, the Democratic Youth League.

The organization of the Democratic Youth League began at lower echelons and proceeded to higher echelons. A large number of young people vied with each other to join the Democratic Youth League.

The great leader paid close attention to work with the students as well as the young people in the industrial and agricultural sectors.

The students were responsive to new things. They had a strong revolutionary spirit of aspiration for a new society. They were patriotic in that they were eager to devote their knowledge to the development of the country and the prosperity of the nation. For these reasons they were expected to play a very important role in the revolutionary struggle and in the development of the national economy and culture.

On December 7, 1945, the great leader delivered a speech, "Students Should Actively Help in Building a Democratic Country", at a mass meeting of young students from middle schools and schools of higher levels in Pyongyang. Then he gave clear-cut answers to the various questions raised by the students.

After the great leader's speech, the students in different parts of the country held general meetings of the Students' Union. At these meetings they decided to dissolve the union and join the Democratic Youth League. They were admitted in groups to the Democratic Youth League.

The merger of the Students' Union with the Democratic

Youth League was a major step forward in the struggle to carry out the organizational line of the league.

6) THE FORMATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL UNITED FRONT

The Principles That Had to Be Maintained

While establishing the working people's organizations such as labour unions (trade unions), the peasants' association (peasants' union), the Democratic Youth League and the Women's Union and knitting them around the Party, the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung pressed on with the movement of the Democratic National United Front.

In order to carry out successfully the difficult and complex tasks facing the Party and our people after liberation, it was necessary to form a united front with different parties, groups, and all sections of the democratic forces which aspired to build a new democratic Korea under the banner of democracy.

Without forming a solid democratic national united front, it was impossible to strengthen the solidarity of the different strata of the population and unite all the patriotic, democratic forces, nor was it possible to mobilize effectively the broad masses in nation-building.

In the days immediately after liberation, however, the political climate varied among the different sections of the people.

Workers, peasants, intellectuals, small shopkeepers, handicraftsmen, and even honest-minded national capitalists truly rejoiced at the liberation of the country, and were

opposed to the reactionaries who were trying to make the country a colony of the imperialists again. They desired to build a democratic, independent and sovereign state in our country.

However, because of the manoeuvres of the reactionaries and factionalists, there was a great deal of vacillation among a substantial proportion of the middle-of-the-roaders.

The factionalists and local separatists rejected the middle-of-the-roaders. They asserted that all the propertied classes should be overthrown.

At that time, in North Pyongan Province, factionalists put up what they called a “public notice” with the list of “those who were to be overthrown in the proletarian revolution”. The list contained the names of the middle-of-the-roaders side by side with the names of the cursed lackeys of the Japanese imperialists.

These factionalists even slandered as allies of the “bourgeoisie” people who met honest-minded entrepreneurs. They criticized people who met religious men, asking whether they wanted to “become addicted to opium”.

In consequence, in many counties of the province, people gave a wide berth to national capitalists and religious people. People were reluctant to work with them.

The middle-of-the-roadérs were wavering, not knowing which direction to take. The state of affairs in other provinces was the same as in this province.

At this moment, the great leader summoned to Pyongyang the officials who had been working in the provinces. He received detailed reports from them about the situation in each province and supplied answers to the questions that they raised. On October 13, 1945, he addressed a speech, “On the Building of New Korea and the National United Front”, to the senior officials of the provincial Party committees. In this

speech he gave answers to the problems of principle involved in forming the democratic national united front. He also indicated what tasks needed to be tackled to accomplish its formation.

The great leader said that the US and Japanese imperialist forces and their minions—the collaborators with the Japanese and Americans, the traitors to the nation, land-owners and comprador capitalists—were the targets of struggle in the united-front movement. He stressed that all the other people, all the political forces that loved the country and the nation and desired the democratic development of the country should be admitted to the national united front.

Here, an important question was how to define the lackeys of Japanese imperialism correctly. This was a most difficult question for the officials who had been sent to work on their own in the provinces.

The great leader said that it was unreasonable to define somebody as a lackey of the Japanese imperialists simply because he had worked under them. He explained that those who had put down and killed people deliberately in order to frustrate the revolution, who had betrayed national interests in order to benefit Japanese imperialism and who collaborated with it actively and willingly, must of course be classed as lackeys, and that these traitors must be liquidated through the struggle of the masses.

He said that the people who had worked in the institutions of the Japanese imperialists in order to earn a living or under coercion and the junior office workers who had played a slothful and passive role there should not be defined as lackeys. He instructed that these people should be educated and reformed and guided to take an active part in building a new Korea.

This policy of the great leader served as a guiding principle

in thwarting the manoeuvres of the reactionaries and factionalists and in pushing forward the united-front movement.

Helping the Parties of the Neutral Forces

At the same time as organizing and guiding the work of forming mass organizations on a professional and sectional basis, the great leader gave active assistance to the petit bourgeoisie, national capitalists, religious believers and other neutral forces in forming their democratic political parties.

When the Communist Party was founded and was growing stronger in the days immediately after liberation, the middle-of-the-roaders were organizing themselves gradually out of a desire to form their own political organizations.

The US imperialists and their minions were scheming to use the developments among the middle-of-the-roaders to help divide and destroy the revolutionary forces and to direct them against the Communist Party.

Divining immediately the political movements of the middle-of-the-roaders and the divisive acts of the reactionaries, the great leader saw to it that the political parties of the middle-of-the-roaders took the path of democratic development. He met influential nationalists and men of religion in person. He explained to them the road liberated Korea should take as well as the direction in which political parties should be organized, and helped them to adopt democratic programmes aimed at building a democratic, independent and sovereign state.

The other newly organized democratic parties apart from the Communist Party in the north after liberation were the Democratic Party and the Chondoist Chongu Party.

The Democratic Party drew its membership from the petit

bourgeoisie, entrepreneurs, merchants, rich farmers and others. A large number of Christians were affiliated with this party.

The Chondoist Chongu Party was the party of the believers in Chondoism, and most of them were peasants.

In view of their programmes and the composition of their membership, these political parties were to be enlisted in the democratic united front. However, some reactionaries who were in the leadership of these parties worked against the revolution, against the Communist Party. In these circumstances it was important to set the work of the friendly parties to rights.

The great leader helped the progressive and influential members of the Democratic Party to fight and expel the pro-Japanese and pro-American elements and betrayers of the nation from the party.

A widespread campaign was conducted to expose their crimes in the course of which the political awareness of the party members increased. They acquired the ability to distinguish between friend and foe and eventually demanded that the reactionaries should be ousted from the party.

Finally these reactionaries were expelled by the progressive and patriotic forces in the Democratic Party and became completely isolated from the masses.

Such a struggle also took place in the Chondoist Chongu Party.

The great leader also made sure that the Communist Party organizations at all levels and the members made a firm distinction between the character of the friendly parties and the misconduct of certain individual members of these parties. He ensured that they established relations with the friendly parties on the basis of their programmes and policies, steadily strengthened ties with these parties in the course of the

revolution and construction, and enlisted in building a democracy the masses from all walks of life who were under the influence of these parties.

Among the Religious Believers

In our country there were Christian and other religions. Not only did they have large numbers of believers but also they were spread throughout the country.

The presbytery, for example, had more than 3,600 churches in all parts of the country, and the number of churchgoers in Pyongyang alone in the days immediately before liberation amounted to 30,000. When one considers the fact that at the time Pyongyang only had a population of 400,000, one can see what a large proportion of the inhabitants were churchgoers and how many people were under the church's influence.

After liberation patriotic believers were eager to participate in building a new country because they were keenly aware that, without national independence, there could be no freedom of belief.

In view of both the religious influence upon the people and the patriotic enthusiasm of the believers, they ought to be enlisted in the democratic national united front.

Nevertheless, it was not easy to draw them into the united front.

Some religious believers, especially Christians, were prejudiced against the Communist Party's policy on religion so they were extremely vacillating. In particular, they harboured illusions about the US imperialists when these invaders occupied south Korea. They watched developments and even perpetrated counterrevolutionary acts at the instigation of these imperialists.

In spite of many claims on him, the great leader met many men of religion in person and explained to them the Communist Party's policy on guaranteeing freedom of belief as well as its policy of a united front. He guided them all to become patriotic.

To Mr. Kang Ryang Uk, Christian minister and the former Vice-Chairman of the Democratic Party, and to other religious believers, the great leader said:

"It is important for us to give the Christians a good patriotic education. They now believe in God, not a Korean God but an American God. Why should they worship a foreign God, instead of a Korean God, if they have to worship one?... The Christians should be persuaded to believe in a Korean God, not the God of the United States."

Thus patriotic Christians began to educate their fellow Christians to open their eyes and this work made brisk headway.

In the process, honest-minded rank and file believers opened their eyes gradually, and reactionary Christians were isolated. The overwhelming majority of the religious believers were solidly united under the banner of democracy.

A Students' Incident in Sinuiju

The work of uniting the parties, groups and masses of people from all walks of life that differed from one another in political views, religious belief, property status, and levels of knowledge, involved a fierce struggle from the outset against national and class enemies.

The US imperialists and their minions, who feared the solid unity of the patriotic, democratic forces above all else, made frantic efforts to disrupt the unity of our people. They

spread various misleading rumours to confuse the public and instigated students to stage reactionary demonstrations or disturbances.

Take the students' incident in Sinuiju, a city on the northern tip of Korea, for example.

This incident broke out at the instigation of the reactionaries who took advantage of the lax social order and the people's difficult living conditions in the days immediately after liberation, and of the encroachment on the people's interests by the nefarious elements who had wormed themselves into the Communist Party and government organs.

The sham communists who had sneaked into the Party and government organs immediately after liberation were leading a dissipated life by embezzling large amounts of state property and by deceiving the politically ill-prepared people by means of "Leftist" phrases, instead of paying attention to the people's living conditions.

The Right-wing reactionaries, who had been biding their time, seized on the deficiencies of the phony communists. "That is what the Communist Party is like," they said. They fomented disorder in some parts of the province and then egged the students in Sinuiju, the provincial capital, on to attack the provincial Communist Party office and the provincial people's committee.

The great leader was informed of the incident while he was speaking at a theatre in Pyongyang. He went immediately in spite of the danger, straight to the border city where the reactionaries were still in action. Comrade Kim Il who was working in North Pyongan Province at the time recalled how impressively the great leader dealt with the situation in Sinuiju.

On arrival in Sinuiju, the respected leader, with a worried

look on his face, thought things over for a while. Then he said to the officials who had come to meet him:

“No doubt this is a scheme of the reactionaries. We must take this opportunity to expose them in their true colours, and give the people a correct understanding of the Communist Party.

“If not, it will be impossible to deal with the situation and unite the masses.”

He explained how the people should be better educated and united solidly so as to isolate the reactionaries completely.

On November 27, 1945, a mass meeting was held in Sinuiju.

At the meeting the respected leader made an historic speech, “Which Path Should Liberated Korea Take?”

In the speech he gave a summary of the anti-Japanese national liberation struggle of our people and indicated the path Korea should take. He said that if our people were to carry out their heavy and difficult tasks, they needed the united efforts of the whole nation, and pointed out that our nation was not yet united. He laid bare the scheme of the pro-Japanese elements, betrayers to the nation and other reactionaries who plotted the incident. He stated that in order to unite the efforts of the whole nation, it was essential to form a democratic national united front at the earliest date. He stressed that the Communist Party was the most progressive and revolutionary party which was fighting for the interests of the workers, peasants and other working people, a party which was endeavouring to form a solid national united front and on this basis to set up a truly people's government and build a democratic, independent and sovereign state.

While he was saying this, someone near the rostrum shouted, “General, are you, too, a communist?” The question

was so daredevil that the people began to murmur, standing on tiptoe.

In fact, people were not well-disposed towards communism in those days. Quite a few people were not yet free from the effect of the misleading anti-communist propaganda of the Japanese imperialists. On top of that, because of the abuses committed by the self-styled “communists” and the vicious acts of the reactionaries after liberation, they were unable to distinguish between right and wrong.

That was why, when the representatives of the people’s government, democratic political parties and social organizations were making their welcoming addresses before the great leader took the floor, the representative of the Communist Party who took the floor had been compelled to step down, unable to make a speech under the pressure of the masses.

The great leader looked down at the audience for a while and then announced without demur:

“Somebody asked me just now: General, are you also a communist? Yes, I am a communist.”

A hushed silence fell upon the audience.

The great leader’s sonorous voice continued: “Communists are true patriots fighting unswervingly for the complete independence of the country and the happiness of the people. If a man called a communist does not love his country and nation, he is not a true communist. I am not the kind of communist who looks up to foreign countries but one who relies on our own people and fights for the benefit of the Korean nation and people.”

At that moment the meeting burst into cheering, “Long live General Kim Il Sung!” This was followed by prolonged, tumultuous applause.

The tension in the atmosphere was broken and the expression on everyone's face brightened.

The great leader said that they must distinguish real communists from sham ones, and that the shady alien elements who wormed their way into the Communist Party and were perpetrating wicked acts, threatening people and feathering their own nests, must be thoroughly cleansed from the Party.

He emphasized that they must clearly understand that without the leadership of the Communist Party, the national united front and the prosperity of the country would be impossible, and that they must support its lines and policies whole-heartedly and follow the communists in the efforts to build a democratic new Korea.

His speech was interrupted frequently by enthusiastic cheers and applause.

"If General Kim Il Sung, the true patriot, is a communist, why should we oppose the Communist Party?", "General Kim Il Sung is really a great man. We must follow his instructions and come out as one in the work of building the country." These were the sort of thing people were saying as they stood around for a long time talking to each other after the meeting.

After the meeting, the great leader stayed in Sinuiju for several days, meeting and guiding the people from different sections of the population.

The people from different walks of life such as entrepreneurs, merchants, intellectuals and religious believers in Sinuiju, who did not know which path they should take in the complicated situation, said to the people's committee that they would like to hear the words of the great leader once more.

The great leader complied with their request. The next

day he spoke before the representatives of the different strata on the tasks of the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution.

Thanks to his energetic activities, the wavering middle-of-the-roaders made a new resolve and rallied together under the flag of democracy. On July 22, 1946 the Democratic National United Front of North Korea was formed at last. The united front embraced the democratic political parties including our Party and more than ten social organizations, representing six million organized people.

7) THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARTY'S POLITICAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL LINES

At the inaugural congress of our Party the great leader set the basic political task of establishing a Democratic People's Republic and made clear what was to be done to carry out the basic political task.

He also took every opportunity to explain the Party's political line in detail in the days that followed. However, anti-Party factionalists worked overtly and covertly against the Party's political line.

One day in the autumn of 1945, Pak Hon Yong (a spy who was on the payroll of the US imperialists) came to meet the great leader in an attempt to get his support for the idea of what he called a "people's republic" under the presidency of Syngman Rhee, a lackey of the United States and a traitor. Seeing through the reactionary nature of the "people's republic" advocated by the anti-Party factional elements, the great leader refuted him thoroughly and convincingly.

The great leader said that our country had been a Japanese imperialist colony where the relations of capitalist and feudal exploitation prevailed. Therefore the Korean people were faced with an urgent task of carrying out the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution and of founding a Democratic People's Republic. He pointed out that advocating the establishment of a bourgeois republic in our country, arguing for carrying out our revolution under the leadership of the capitalist class, and preaching "unity with everyone" without discrimination were, in fact, tantamount to denying the class struggle. He seriously warned that that was not a communist attitude, but something similar to the revisionist doctrine of Bernstein and Kautsky, and that those who regarded the United States as a "liberator" or "helper" were no longer communists.

O Gi Sop (an anti-Party, counterrevolutionary factionalist) also came to see the great leader.

He was an ultra-"Left" opportunist. He was in the habit of copying foreign propositions, talking about the "proletariat", "hegemony", "socialist revolution" and so on. Arguing about the "contradiction between labour and capital", he dared to insist on what he called the "doctrine of the socialist revolution" even in the presence of the great leader.

"You are always talking about the socialist revolution," said the great leader. "Well, how can we ignore the historical stages and skip straight over to the socialist revolution?" Then he declared that an anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution should be carried out and that in this revolution the national capitalists could also be a motive force of the revolution.

At this O Gi Sop became wide-eyed with astonishment. He asked how a national capitalist could become a motive force of the revolution.

The great leader explained the reason cogently and criticized him for his fallacy. He said that the national capitalists could become a motive force of the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution because they had suffered exploitation and oppression by the Japanese imperialists and the comprador capitalists who were allied with the imperialists.

With uncommon patience and magnanimity, the great leader educated and opened the eyes of those who obstructed the implementation of the Party's political line.

Nevertheless, the traitors to the revolution and the local separatists who were given to acts of factionalism, seeking self-advancement and fame, not the interests of the revolution, continued to dispute the Party's political line and laid obstacles to its implementation.

The prevailing situation required that the acts of the factionalists and the local separatists should be exposed and crushed and that the Party's political line be carried out more thoroughly.

On November 15, 1945, the great leader, to meet the requirements of the situation, convened the second enlarged executive committee meeting of the Central Organizing Committee of the Communist Party of North Korea. At this meeting he made an historic speech, "For the Establishment of Genuine People's Government".

The speech stressed that the kind of government that was to be established in our liberated country was a matter of the utmost importance for the future of the country and the nation. At present, he said, some people argued that the so-called "people's republic" invented by a few persons in Seoul should be recognized, but we can never recognize such a "government". He issued a grave warning that recognizing such a government would not only betray the national desire

of the Korean people, but help the imperialists in carrying out their policy of colonial enslavement. He also strongly denounced the "Left" opportunists who were insisting on establishing a dictatorship of the proletariat and on carrying out the socialist revolution immediately. He said that they were very dangerous people who, ignoring the objective requirements of social progress in our country and the preparedness of the masses, would divorce the masses from our Party and wreck national unity.

He went on to say that the people's government which was to be established must be based on a broad mass foundation and on the national united front enlisting the patriotic, democratic forces of different sections of the population. He put forward the task of accelerating preparations for the establishment of this government in north Korea and of founding an interim central organ of power capable of representing the interests of the people.

After the second enlarged executive committee meeting of the Central Organizing Committee of the Communist Party of North Korea, the factionalists and the local separatists were unable to object openly to the Party's political line.

However, they continued to obstruct the implementation of the Party's organizational line, disrupt the Party's organizational leadership system, and retard the advance of Party work.

They did not know even the elementary rules of Party life. Although they held responsible positions within the Party, they were engrossed in factional activities and were undermining the Party from within. In consequence, grave shortcomings were revealed in Party work, particularly in its organizational work.

They selected and appointed cadres not on the Party principle of personal suitability, but because they were friends

or relatives, in an attempt to rally their minions.

They were not dealing with the work of admitting new members properly, either. If the Party was to develop into a mass party based firmly on the proletariat, the Party ranks should have been steadily increased by admitting the advanced elements among the workers and peasants. They were not willing to recruit progressive workers who had been trained in labour for a long time; set too high a standard for the admission of these workers. They admitted indiscriminately anyone who would follow them, whether they were heterogeneous elements or loafers, in order to rally them for the purpose of realizing their factional schemes.

Taking advantage of this situation, profiteers, opium dealers and even pro-Japanese elements sneaked into the Party and into positions of authority.

In order to overcome the manoeuvres of the factionalists and local separatists who were hindering the implementation of the Party's organizational line, the great leader convened on December 17, 1945, the third enlarged executive committee meeting of the Central Organizing Committee of the Communist Party of North Korea. At this meeting he delivered an historic report, "On the Work of the Organizations at All Levels of the Communist Party of North Korea".

The report made a full analysis of the shortcomings revealed in the Party's organizational work and set the tasks for improving Party building and all aspects of the Party's organizational and political work.

The meeting severely punished the factionalists who disobeyed the instructions of the Party centre and violated Party discipline. The *Chongno* carried the portrait of the great leader on the front page of its issue for December 21, 1945, as well as the news of the meeting under various headlines: "The

Undesirable Elements Cleansed from the Party, the Centralist System Established”, “Let Us Consolidate the Party Ranks by Purging the Heterogeneous Elements”, in addition to “A Glorious Fighting History of Comrade Kim Il Sung”.

Through the struggle to implement the decision of this meeting, the Party’s organizational line was put into practice to the letter. As a result, a monolithic system of organizational leadership was solidly established from the Party centre down to the cell on the principle of democratic centralism, and the discipline of obeying unconditionally the decisions and directives of higher Party organizations became firm. The Party’s central and subordinate organizations at all levels were staffed with fine new workers, and the Party’s organizational and ideological unity became stronger.

All aspects of Party work were set in the right orbit. The Party developed into a powerful, militant party capable of giving competent and victorious leadership to the historic cause of building a new country, a new society.

8) A GENUINE PEOPLE’S GOVERNMENT

Regarding the question of power as basic to the revolution, as a vital question on which the victory of the revolution and success in the work of construction depended, the great leader pushed forward the work of setting up a new-type government of the people from the days immediately after liberation.

In view of the character and task of our revolution and the cherished desire and aspirations of our people, the great leader formulated the line of setting up a people’s government which would be based on the national united front embracing

the democratic forces of all sections of the population under the leadership of the working class. He also clearly showed the method and procedure for putting the line into practice.

When sending workers who had been specifically prepared for the task to different parts of the country on a mission to set up the genuine people's government, the great leader told them to organize the ranks of the people's government officials well. He told them to ensure that those who enjoyed high prestige among the masses and were capable of serving the people devotedly, that is, the truly faithful servants of the people, became the officials of the people's government.

In those days people's committees had yet to be organized in many parts of the country. Even those committees which had been organized were working under different names in different areas. In one area they would refer to their committee as a people's political committee, while in another area the committee would be called the provisional people's committee or the people's committee.

The political workers such as Comrade Kim Il, Comrade Rim Chun Chu and other anti-Japanese veterans who were sent to the provinces in accordance with the great leader's instructions, organized people's committees in places where these committees had not yet been formed. In the places where such committees already existed, their nomenclature was gradually standardized until they were all called people's committees.

As a result, a people's committee was organized on the people's initiative in every area of our country within two to three months after liberation.

The local people's committees, a new type of government established by the people themselves on their own initiative, were faced with the tasks of combatting the reactionaries,

eliminating disorder, stabilizing the people's lives, and reconstructing and managing the economic, cultural and public health establishments which had been destroyed by the fleeing Japanese imperialists.

However, the people's committees were not yet sufficiently well consolidated to cope with these tasks.

In the first place, there were not many qualified officials. The officials of the people's committees were very enthusiastic about their work but they were not experienced in government. They had experienced only feudalistic rule and the colonial rule of the Japanese imperialists. Consequently an outdated work method and style manifested itself in various aspects of their lives.

To make matters worse, there were pro-Japanese elements and traitors who took advantage of the complex situation that existed immediately after liberation to infiltrate the people's committees in the guise of "patriots". By their misbehaviour they damaged the prestige of the people's government in the eyes of the masses and divided and weakened the revolutionary forces. Therefore, some local people's committees were not performing their tasks properly.

In these circumstances, the great leader took measures to purge the heterogeneous and undesirable elements from the government organs and consolidate the class basis of the people's committees. At the same time, he met inefficient officials frequently and taught them in a kindly manner how they should perform their duties in order to improve their level of functioning.

Thanks to the great leader's energetic guidance and meticulous attention, the officials of the people's committees achieved a marked improvement in their manner of working

and the functions and role of the people's government organs were greatly enhanced.

While further improving the structure and organizational system of the local people's committees, the great leader organized ten administrative bureaux—the industry bureau, transport bureau, communications bureau, agriculture and forestry bureau, commercial bureau, financial bureau, education bureau, public health bureau, judicial bureau, and public security bureau—on November 19, 1945, as a tentative measure to direct the economic sectors and to establish economic ties between the provinces.

The administrative bureaux provided an administrative and economic direction system for different sectors from the centre down to the local areas. Through the work of directing administrative and economic activities, the officials acquired valuable experience in government. But there was no central government organ of north Korea to give guidance and direction to the work of the local people's committees and the administrative bureaux. This was an impediment to the coordinated and planned development of political, economic and cultural life in north Korea.

Local people's committees were working within their own areas, and the ten bureaux within their own sectors of economic and cultural life.

In practical work there were problems that could only be solved by joint efforts. The situation required a central organ capable of supervising the activities of the bureaux and giving unified leadership to the local people's committees.

It was imperative to set up a central power organ in north Korea.

Therefore, on February 8, 1946 the great leader called the meeting of representatives of the democratic political parties and social organizations, administrative bureaux and

people's committees in north Korea in order to organize the central power organ in north Korea. At this meeting, he made an historic report, "On the Present Political Situation in Korea and the Organization of the Provisional People's Committee of North Korea".

The report summed up the successes made in the political, economic and cultural spheres in the first five months after liberation, explained the need to set up a central power organ in north Korea, put forward the tasks that should be performed by the Provisional People's Committee of North Korea and then proposed to organize it.

His report was acclaimed by the meeting.

The meeting organized the Provisional People's Committee of North Korea representing the workers, peasants and all other sections of the population, and acclaimed the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung as the Chairman of the Provisional People's Committee of North Korea in accordance with the unanimous will and desire of all the Korean people.

The Provisional People's Committee of North Korea was a people's democratic dictatorship which was based on the worker-peasant alliance led by the working class and which relied on the democratic national united front embracing a wide range of anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic forces. The major tasks of the government were to carry out the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution and establish a revolutionary democratic base in the northern half of Korea.



II. LEADING THE DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTION TO VICTORY

1) AGRARIAN REFORM

A Pressing Question

The year 1946 was a year of change in the annals of a liberated new Korea, a year in which democratic reforms were successfully carried out.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung established the Provisional People's Committee of North Korea before organizing and guiding a struggle to enforce democratic reforms. The agrarian revolution was a most important democratic revolution.

In those days there were many problems that needed to be solved by means of democratic reform. There was a need, for example, for agrarian and industrial reform. There was a need for the democratic emancipation of the working class and the social emancipation of women. There was a need for democratic education and judicial systems. But it was the agrarian problem that was the most urgent. It was particularly important to solve this problem because Korea was a backward colonial agricultural country, where the vast majority of the population was rural. Peasants accounted for more than 80 per cent of the total population. Land was the

basic means of production; it was concentrated in the hands of a small number of landlords, whereas most of the peasants had little or no land.

At the time of liberation, landlords comprised only four per cent of all the farm households in the northern half of Korea, but they owned 58.2 per cent of the total cultivated land. The poor peasants who accounted for 56.7 per cent of the farm households had only 5.4 per cent of the total crop land.

The situation was the same in North and South Pyongan Provinces where Comrades Kim Il and Rim Chun Chu, anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters, had been sent to act as political workers. In any given village one or two landlords would normally own almost all the fields and the villagers would be their tenants. There were also many big landlords who monopolized the fertile fields of several villages and set an agent in each village to manage their landed estates.

The feudal relations of the landowner and tenant system, which had prevailed in our countryside for centuries, drove the peasants into abject poverty and deprived them of all rights. They were a great hindrance to the development of the productive forces of agriculture. Furthermore, they placed serious obstacles in the path of the development of other branches of the economy and social progress generally.

Until the land question was settled, it was impossible to liberate the peasants from feudal exploitation and oppression, develop the backward rural economy rapidly, accelerate the country's democratization, and successfully rehabilitate and develop the entire national economy. Worse still, now that the US imperialists were occupying the south of Korea, if the landlord class were not liquidated, the reactionary forces could rely on them to hamper the building of a democratic, independent and sovereign state.

Three to Seven System

Successful agrarian reform requires thorough preparations. All the necessary preconditions must be created.

The programme for agrarian reform consisted of radical social and economic measures aimed at doing away with the feudal relations of exploitation and the landlord class, so it was inevitably accompanied by a fierce class struggle.

In order to bring this struggle to sure victory the great leader strengthened the people's government and other apparatus of dictatorship such as the revolutionary armed forces, the security organizations, and the judicial and public procurators offices. In particular, he paid close attention to preparing the peasant masses politically.

The peasant masses, including the hired hands and poor peasants, took a keen interest in the agrarian reform.

In those days our peasants were lacking in political awareness and knowhow.

Because of the Japanese imperialists' colonial rule and their policy of national obscuration, a large number of peasants had neither consciousness of their class position nor any revolutionary determination to fight the landlords and confiscate their land. Some regarded poverty and enslavement as their natural lot and, even after liberation, curried favour with the landlords for fear of losing their tenanted land. Still others worked as slaves in the landlord houses, instead of getting rid of them.

Agrarian reform would not succeed unless the peasant masses were politically awakened.

The great leader ensured that the peasants began with a

struggle for the reduction of farm rent. This was in line with their level of preparedness. Then, as they became gradually aware, he induced them to a higher form of struggle to seize land from the landlords.

The struggle for a 3:7 system of tenancy was the first one the peasants launched against the landlord class after liberation. It was of vital importance in politically awakening and tempering them.

In the past it was common for the Japanese imperialists and the landlords to take from the peasants 70-80 per cent of their harvests by instituting the 8:2 system or the 7:3 system. And they levied various taxes on the peasants, in addition to fertilizer and irrigation charges and other farming expenses. As a result, the tenant farmers who had done backbreaking labour all the year round were left empty-handed in the autumn.

The aim of the struggle for a 3:7 system was to ensure that the landlords would be given just 30 per cent of the harvest yields as rent and that they would pay all the levies on land which had formerly been imposed on the tenants. This struggle did not aim at the abolition of the landlords, only at reducing farm rent in favour of the tenants. Therefore, even those whose class consciousness was not so intense could have interest in the struggle and take an active part in it.

When the Party's decision on the enforcement of the 3:7 system was published, the peasants warmly welcomed and supported it and went all out to put it into effect.

But the landlords did not accept it meekly. In some places they attempted to receive as much farm rent as before, resorting to various wiles, appeasing or blackmailing the unawakened peasants. Worse still, they went so far as to engage in subversive activities.

The great leader saw to it that the peasants held mass

meetings in all parts of the country to expose and denounce the landlords' exploitation, and that a decision was adopted on enforcing the 3:7 system. He himself visited many rural areas in North and South Pyongan Provinces and in Hwanghae Province to encourage those peasants who had risen up in the struggle. At the same time he called on nearby industrial workers to give them active assistance in their struggle.

The strong support lent by the working class added momentum to the peasant struggle. In the autumn and winter of 1945, the struggle for the 3:7 system took place throughout the northern half and ended in victory. In the course of this struggle, the political awareness and revolutionary enthusiasm of the peasants were raised to unprecedented heights.

Land to the Tillers!

Now that the peasants' revolutionary spirit had been roused through the struggle for the 3:7 system, the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung inspired them to proceed to the struggle to actually confiscate land from the landlords.

The peasants had emerged victorious from the struggle for the 3:7 system and were in high spirits. They held mass meetings to demand agrarian reform in every nook and corner of the country.

There was a nationwide demonstration in celebration of the 27th anniversary of the March 1 Uprising. More than two million peasants, sickles and hoes in hand, participated in it, calling for land.

The morale in their struggle for land was at its zenith. The time was ripe for the enforcement of agrarian reform. It was now a pressing task which would brook no delay.

The great leader visited one village after another and talked to peasants in preparation for drawing up an agrarian reform law appropriate to the situation in our liberated country that would reflect the requirements of the peasants in its provisions as accurately as possible. Out in a village in Chunghwa County, he acquainted himself thoroughly with all the relevant statistics, the number of landlords, the amount of land rented out, how many peasants leased land from absentee landlords resident in cities, the amount of farm rent. When talking to rural activists in Sunchon County, he said that the peasants could not be free from exploitation and oppression until they had smashed the landlords and that the rural activists had to lead the struggle against the landlords. He paid a visit to a straw-thatched house in Kangdong County. He asked his host how many members there were in his family, the terms of his tenancy, how much land he thought an able-bodied man could cultivate, how many members of his family were capable of working and how much land he would need to support his family in the future. He also asked other villagers if they knew which were the most or least fertile parts of the landlords' property.

As can be seen, before the agrarian reform was carried out, the great leader personally obtained firsthand information from the peasants and analysed in detail the complicated feudal relations of landownership in our countryside. Then he elaborated on the principles and methods to be applied in the agrarian reform—those whose land had to be confiscated, how to confiscate the tenanted land and redistribute it, and how to eliminate the tenant system once and for all. On this basis, he drafted the Agrarian Reform Law over many sleepless nights.

He subsequently made his final amendments to the draft law after meeting peasants' representatives from all parts of

the country, who conveyed to him their unanimous desire for land and told him what the current situation was like in the countryside and what precisely they were demanding.

On March 5, 1946, "The Agrarian Reform Law in North Korea" was published. It proclaimed the abolition of the feudal relations of landownership and the tenant system in our countryside, and the peasants to be masters of land.

The law defined that the peasants must be masters of land, that the agrarian reform must be effected on the principle of confiscation and distribution free of charge, and that the confiscated land must become the private property of peasants.

Naturally, the land must belong to the tillers, because it was the product of their hard labour.

There was, however, a question at issue here concerning the principles that should govern land confiscation and distribution.

Immediately after liberation, some claimed that the reform had to be enforced on the principle of confiscation and distribution of land with compensation, while others maintained that the confiscated land must be turned into state property.

But these claims were not in accord with our actual conditions. If the land were confiscated and distributed with compensation, the landlords would become rich peasants or capitalists on the proceeds of their land, whereas the peasants would again suffer exploitation by rich peasants and usurers in the course of making the repayments on their land. In the final analysis, agrarian reform on these lines would prove worthless. For it was likely simply to turn the feudal relations of exploitation into capitalist ones. Furthermore, if the centuries-old desire of our peasants were ignored and the confiscated land became state property, it would be impossible

to increase their revolutionary enthusiasm without which there was no guarantee that the agrarian reform would prove a success.

The law also clearly defined those whose land must be confiscated and the principal object of attack. It provided that those who did not cultivate their land but rented it out must be dispossessed, irrespective of the size of their property, and that those who owned more than five hectares of land and rented all of it out must be regarded as landlords and deprived of all their land, draught cattle, farm implements, houses, irrigation facilities and other estates.

The law specified the principle and methods of distributing the confiscated land, and how the distributed land should be managed. It specified that the confiscated land was to be distributed to the hired, landless and land-short peasants in proportion to the number of their family members and of the able-bodied persons in their households. Those who were allotted land were entitled to possess its ownership but were not allowed to rent it out or mortgage it.

After the proclamation of the Agrarian Reform Law, the great leader organized and guided the work of putting the law into effect.

As soon as it was published, he ensured that the rural committees were formed with the hired and poor peasants as their core in all villages. He also ensured that the best people in the Party and government organs were sent to the rural areas and that the progressive workers formed agrarian-reform-support-detachments and went to the countryside. He made sure that democratic political parties and social organizations took an active part in this undertaking.

As a result, more than 11,500 rural committees were formed throughout the country. A large army of the working class, over 10,000 strong, was dispatched to rural areas and

the organized masses of more than three million from all political parties and social organizations were mobilized.

The great leader, in order to cope promptly with possible resistance and subversive manoeuvres by the hostile forces, saw to it that the Security Corps and the Peasant Self-Defence Corps were reinforced and that the role of judicial organs and public procurators offices was further enhanced. He himself visited a large number of villages to lead on the spot the enforcement of the Agrarian Reform Law.

The measures taken by the great leader ensured that various deviations, large or small, were prevented in time everywhere, that the reform went through smoothly and was successfully implemented in just over three weeks.

As a result of the agrarian reform, more than one million hectares of land owned by the Japanese imperialists, pro-Japanese elements, traitors to the nation and landlords were confiscated and divided free of charge among more than 720,000 landless or land-short peasant households.

The joy of the peasants who became masters of land was beyond description. One function after another was held in every village, in celebration of the victorious agrarian reform.

The great leader brought the agrarian reform to a victorious conclusion and then inspired the peasants to produce a splendid harvest in the first year's farming after the reform. Although they were given land, they found it very difficult to do the first year's farming on their own for lack of draught cattle, farm implements, seed grain and the like. The rich peasants and usurers sought to take advantage of this. They plotted to bind up the peasants again in fetters of exploitation, while the reactionaries spread rumours in an insidious attempt to agitate them, saying: "We'll see how you manage to farm barehanded," and "You won't be able to farm by yourselves without the assistance of the landlords."

But the great leader knew what they were up to. He took the decisive step of setting up the Peasant Bank of North Korea so that the peasants could borrow the money they needed to prepare their draught cattle, farm implements and seed grain. He also ensured that the state, despite its economic difficulties, bought tens of thousands of cattle from mountainous areas to distribute among the peasants in the plain areas. He made available to the peasants the seeds that had been seized from the landlords during the agrarian reform and led the middle peasants, through efficient work, to share their seed grain with the hired hands and poor peasants.

Furthermore, he made sure that those who were given land were provided with chemical fertilizer that they would pay for with grain in the autumn. Workers, office employees and pupils were formed into seeding-aid corps or rice-transplanting corps to give the peasants a helping hand.

In this way the peasants were able to complete all their farming operations in due season.

On June 27, 1946, the great leader proclaimed the law on agricultural tax in kind. This law freed the peasants from forced grain delivery and all sorts of miscellaneous levies that had once been imposed on them such as land tax and profit tax. They had to deliver in kind only 25 per cent of their harvest to the state and could dispose freely of the remaining 75 per cent.

As a result of the successful agrarian reform and the consolidation of its victory, our country at last brilliantly solved the land question at the stage of the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution.

This was the first major victory in the struggle to ensure democracy in Korea; it was a revolutionary reform of great historic significance in the development of our revolution and in the building of a new society.

2) NATIONALIZATION OF INDUSTRIES

The great leader ensured that the agrarian reform was followed by the nationalization of key industries.

Until then it had been received wisdom that industry must be nationalized at the stage of the socialist revolution.

However, the great leader, who has seen to it that we carry out everything in our own way to suit our specific conditions, defined the nationalization of key industries as one of the important tasks to be tackled at the stage of the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution. Therefore he laid down the policy of nationalizing major industries, transport, communications, banks, commerce and foreign trade. These sectors of the economy had all been in the ownership of the Japanese imperialists and comprador capitalists.

During their 36 years of colonial rule over Korea, the Japanese imperialists monopolized even foreign trade, to say nothing of industry and transport, completely subordinating Korea's economy to theirs, in order to make Korea a Japan's raw-material supplier, commodity market and base for aggression against the continent. This was illustrated by Japanese statistics, showing that, of the total amount of capital in Korea, 93 per cent was held by Japanese, two per cent by other foreigners and only five per cent by Koreans.

As long as the imperialists and comprador capitalists held the lifeline of the economy, we Koreans could not extricate ourselves from their plunder and exploitation nor hope for the country's independence, sovereignty, prosperity and progress.

It was only when the state took a firm grip of the main artery of the economy, when it abolished the ownership of foreign monopoly capitalists and comprador capitalists, that it could undermine the economic footholds on which the imperialists and local reactionaries relied, and emancipate the working class and other popular masses from colonial exploitation and subjugation.

After their defeat all the Japanese factories and enterprises had been placed in the possession of the working class, and the revolutionary forces absolutely predominated. So it was quite possible to nationalize key industries at the stage of the democratic revolution. Such being the case, we did not need to take the trouble to redistribute industrial establishments among individual persons so as to rear new capitalists and make the socialist revolution more difficult and complicated.

On August 10, 1946, the great leader published the Law on Nationalization of Industries, Transport, Communications, Banks and So On.

Under this law, more than 90 per cent of our industry or over 1,000 factories and enterprises, became public property.

As a result, the root cause of all sorts of social misfortunes was, in the main, eliminated in the field of industry, the socialist relations of production were established, and the foundations were laid for a planned development of the national economy.

3) ENFORCEMENT OF LABOUR LAW

The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung introduced a succession of economic and other democratic reforms and

policies so as to guarantee democratic rights and freedom for the people.

The enforcement of the Labour Law was an historic event which would put an end to colonial forced labour in our country for ever and open up before factory and office workers a broad avenue for worthwhile work and a happy, new life.

In the past our working class led a miserable life, subjected to the most harsh oppression and exploitation, under the colonial rule of Japanese imperialism. Colonial labour forced upon the Korean workers found, first of all, expression in their long workday. The Japanese endlessly extended working hours just as they pleased, bleeding the Korean workers white.

According to watered-down data published by the research bureau of Japan's South Manchuria Railway Company, in the latter half of the 1930s, factories with a nine-hour working day accounted for only six per cent of the total, while those with a working day of over 12 hours made up 41 per cent of the total. In munitions factories the usual working day was between 14 and 16 hours.

The Korean workers were also subjected to double exploitation by the Japanese imperialist policy of national discrimination. They were paid far less than Japanese workers who were doing the same work. The same applied to white-collar workers.

Moreover, the Koreans had to endure hard toil and were commonly in constant danger of death or injury because there were no proper health or safety regulations. The factories and mines where our workers were forced to toil like slaves were literally a living hell.

It was not until the country's liberation that our working

class threw off the yoke of colonial slavery and appeared as masters of the country, as the main force for the building of a new country.

However, the fall of Japanese imperialism and the liberation of Korea did not mean the full democratic emancipation of our working class. The eight-hour working day was yet to be instituted. Juvenile labour was widely prevalent. A social insurance scheme and health and safety regulations for workers had not been introduced. In industrial management the old practices of Japanese imperialism were not completely eradicated.

The great leader worked hard to give our working class a right to labour and to arrange the most progressive, democratic labour legislation for them. For this purpose, he inspected their workplaces, dining rooms, dormitories, and dwelling houses to obtain a detailed understanding of their working and living conditions, working hours, wage scales, health and safety measures, and the extent and circumstances of female and juvenile employment.

He even fitted in to his busy on-the-spot guidance schedules visits to beauty spots and places where there were mineral and hot springs to assess the potential for erecting rest homes and sanatoria in these places in the future.

When he had in this manner made full preparations, the great leader published the Labour Law for the Workers and Office Employees in North Korea on June 24, 1946.

The Labour Law guaranteed democratic freedom and the rights to both work and rest—the introduction of an eight-hour day, the prohibition of juvenile labour, the payment of an equal wage for the same work, and the introduction of paid leave and a social insurance scheme.

The great leader saw to it that the state strengthened its

guidance and control so that factories, enterprises and offices would strictly observe the Labour Law. Even under the extremely difficult conditions that prevailed immediately after liberation, he made sure that health and safety measures were taken at state expense, that a social insurance scheme was introduced, and that rest homes and sanatoria were built everywhere for factory and office workers to enjoy rest and relaxation to the full. While making inspection tours of factories and enterprises, he began to keep himself informed of how effectively the Labour Law was being executed, lavishing great love and conferring benefits on the workers who had long suffered from hard toil.

Thanks to the Labour Law, in our country imperialist forced labour was eliminated. Radical changes were effected in the working conditions and daily lives of workers and office employees, and their democratic emancipation was fully realized.

4) EQUAL RIGHTS TO WOMEN

The women of Korea had for centuries suffered harsh maltreatment and insult in both their social and domestic lives due to the old feudal custom of giving men precedence over women. In feudal society women's personal rights were severely restricted. They had no right to education and marriage, nor could they go out freely. Worse still, they were sold and bought like commodities.

That was why social activities on the part of women were inconceivable even in dreams.

Under the colonial rule of Japanese imperialism the plight of Korean women was even more miserable. Those who were

forced to work at factories were bled white, and the extent to which their dignity was trampled underfoot defies description.

Consequently, the centuries-old feudal rules and the 36 years of Japanese imperialist colonial rule had combined to subject the women of Korea to unbridled exploitation and oppression, and unconditional submission and humiliation.

While women who comprised half the population remained in this object state, neither the country's democratization nor the building of a new country could be successful.

The great leader paid primary attention to awakening women politically for their social emancipation.

If they were to achieve social emancipation and sex equality it was necessary for the women themselves to rise up with a keen awareness of their humiliating position in a struggle to gain the rights and freedoms of which they had been deprived. However, their level of preparedness was very low.

Even after the country was liberated, most women thought that the men would work in society, while it would be enough for them to stay at home and do the cooking and the washing and rear the children. They were content with the fact that they would live in peace, attending their husbands and children in their own country.

The level of consciousness was equally low among working women in factories and on farms.

There were even some women who regarded their position in a fatalistic light and thought it rather unnatural to be freed from feudal fetters.

With a view to enhancing their political awareness, the great leader organized broad sections of women into the women's union, waged forceful ideological education among them using various forms and methods, taught women

officials in detail how to work and behave, and gave lectures for women in person.

On the basis of thorough preparations, he proclaimed a law which he had drafted on July 30, 1946, at the 11th Session of the Provisional People's Committee of North Korea. This was the Law on Sex Equality in North Korea.

Under this law Korean women came to have, for the first time in history, equal rights with men to elect and to be elected, to work and to education, and to free marriage and divorce. This law put an end to the evil practices of the old society. Polygamy, traffic in women, the systems of licensed and unlicensed prostitution, and the professional entertainer system were all prohibited.

He also gave scrupulous guidance so that the law could be put into effect in all respects.

The greatest obstacle standing in the way of women exercising their rights was the outdated view of women with the misguided tendency to dislike them going out into the world.

With a view to correcting these social misunderstandings, the great leader had the Law on Sex Equality properly embodied in the first democratic elections so that women could proudly enter the political arena of democratic new Korea.

5) THE QUESTION OF NATIONAL CADRES

In the early days of building a new Korea there were many difficulties and hardships; one of the most serious problems was the shortage of skilled personnel and professional people.

Since the Japanese imperialists pursued a policy of

colonial slave education, Korea had a very small number of native intellectuals, and an overwhelming majority of the population was remote from modern technical civilization.

The Japanese did not allow the Korean workers to acquire even simple technical skills. At the time of liberation, for instance, there were only a handful of Korean locomotive engineers; generally speaking, the highest a Korean could aim was to work as a stoker.

It was very difficult to operate power stations because there were no electricians. There were no metallurgical engineers who could give technical guidance on the rehabilitation of the blast furnaces which the Japanese destroyed before they fled. There was a scarcity of doctors, teachers, writers and artists.

In all fields of politics, the economy and culture there was a mountain of tasks to be done but none of them could be done properly for lack of competent personnel.

Indeed, the shortage of native cadres was a problem which in the context of the realities of liberated Korea required an urgent solution. Finding a solution to this problem was crucial to the success of the revolution and construction.

Therefore, the great leader designated building up the ranks of native cadres as one of the priority tasks in building the new society. He gave this matter close attention from the earliest days after liberation.

Boldly Trusting in Old-line Intellectuals

The only correct policy to pursue was to boldly place trust in old-line intellectuals and re-educate them to enlist their efforts in the building of a new society. This policy was based on an accurate analysis of the peculiarity of our historical

development and of their personal histories.

The old intellectuals had graduated from universities to become technicians or experts at a hard time when most Koreans were unable to attend even primary or middle schools. They were mostly from wealthy families and had served Japanese imperialism.

But they were no more than colonial intellectuals. Under Japanese imperialist rule, they too were subjected to insult and discrimination as members of a nation deprived of its sovereignty. They lived in low spirits. They were unable to seek out science and truth, because in those days to study Korean history and geography was to be “guilty” of a crime. Many intellectuals, who possessed first-rate talent and expertise, were rejected merely by reason of being Korean and assigned to inferior posts if they were employed in Japanese establishments or companies.

As colonial intellectuals who had suffered national oppression and discrimination at the hands of the imperialists, they had an anti-imperialist, revolutionary consciousness and a patriotic spirit and could serve the working class, the progressive class, according to the law of social development, so far as they learned and understood the truth.

The great leader took into consideration such characteristics of our old-line intellectuals. He took the view that if they were led along the correct road, albeit their origins and past careers might be complicated, they could be re-educated and induced to participate enthusiastically in building a new society.

Consequently the scientists, technicians, men of culture and artists who were scattered here and there were sought out, so that they could be given assignments and settle down. All the old-line intellectuals were deeply moved and their joy was beyond description.

Mention must be made of the fact that Comrade Li Jong Ok, now Vice-President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, was one of them.

Although they rejoiced at their country's liberation, the feelings of the old intellectuals at the time were complicated. They feared recriminations because of their origins and past records. Some were in two minds whether to remain in the north or to migrate to the south.

The great leader called these intellectuals to his side. They vied with one another in taking part in nation-building with fresh hopes and great ambitions. Among them there were technicians whose fathers were landlords and whose relatives were all in south Korea. There were many scientists, men of culture and artists who came over to the north from south Korea across the danger line. Having provided the old intellectuals with a good opportunity to serve the country and the nation, the great leader, in spite of the many demands on his time, met with them frequently. He taught them what they should do to help in building a new country and took scrupulous care of them so that they could advance steadily along the road of a worthwhile life.

Some were not tempered in practice, so they yielded to the difficulties that were inevitably involved in nation-building, while others stepped back, wavering. Factionalists rejected and harassed old intellectuals for no reason, distorting the Party's policy towards intellectuals. These anti-Party activities would have made life a trial for quite a few of the intellectuals if the great leader had not dealt with the anti-Party factionalists in good time.

He consistently placed his trust in the intellectuals, educating hesitators and waverers ceaselessly, so that they eventually became tempered in the course of revolutionary practice. He valued and trusted the old intellectuals who were

determined to serve for the good of the country and the people, and was responsible for their political integrity to the last. His limitless benevolence towards them was amply illustrated by the example of the late Comrade Chong Jun Taek, alternate member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and Vice-Premier of the Administration Council. Comrade Chong Jun Taek, a mining engineer, was appointed as manager of the Mannyon Mine immediately after liberation. Early in November, 1945, he was recalled to Pyongyang by the great leader who met him for the first time and appointed him Director of the Industrial Bureau. Some time later, however, he returned to the Mannyon Mine. This was because the factionalists had ousted him from his post, alleging that the old intellectuals were "pro-Japanese" and "suspect". They only pretended to be strong in revolutionary spirit.

When later on the great leader got to hear of this, he sent him a message recalling him to Pyongyang again and a car to fetch him. He reassured him that the distress he had suffered had been at the hands of malignant individuals and that he would be able to work freely from now on. Then he reappointed him Director of the Industrial Bureau of the Provisional People's Committee of North Korea.

Under his benevolent care, old-line intellectuals were able to embark upon the road of revolution and become fine revolutionaries amidst arduous struggles, adding lustre to their political integrity.

Despite the economic difficulties immediately after liberation, he was always concerned for the working and living conditions of those intellectuals and technicians who had begun to lead a new life. In particular, he ensured that those who came from south Korea empty-handed were provided with houses, furniture, kitchen utensils, clothes, bedding, rice,

non-staple foods and other necessities.

Thus our old-line intellectuals were able to make a great contribution to the country's prosperity and to the development of a flourishing national culture, shoulder to shoulder with the workers and peasants from the first days of building a new country.

For Training New Intellectuals

The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung took active measures to establish universities, colleges and schools at all levels throughout the country with the aim of training a large number of new intellectuals of worker and peasant origin. On his initiative, a university was set up in the year after liberation. It was an epoch-making event in terms of bringing up new scientific and technical personnel. It was not easy to establish the university at that time. There was no building in existence that had been designed for the purposes of higher education. There were few potential students to be enrolled. Moreover, in the northern half of Korea which had not a single university before liberation, there were very few people qualified to be university lecturers or administrators.

However, the great leader took the view that the university, the training centre for native cadres, should be set up as a matter of priority in order to rear new intellectuals of working-class or peasant origin in large numbers. Therefore he pushed ahead boldly with this undertaking from immediately after liberation.

On November 3, 1945, he held talks with educational workers. He made it clear to them how necessary it was to set up the university and instructed them to make thorough preparations to accomplish this. Some two weeks later, he

made sure that the educational workers concerned and people from all walks of life were formed into an association for the establishment of the university. He himself acted as an advisor to the association.

As a result, the work of establishing the university made tremendous progress. The ranks of the students and teaching staff were formed. School buildings, teaching implements, the dormitories for the students and the houses for the lecturers were arranged. The curricula were drawn up and textbooks were written.

On September 15, 1946, the opening ceremony of the university, which initially enrolled 1,500 students into seven departments, was held in the presence of the great leader.

Our people decided to name it after Kim Il Sung in order to hand down through the generations the memory of the founder of the university's high ideals and the great benefits he conferred.

Kim Il Sung University became a reliable base for training large numbers of new intellectuals in Korea, and from this parent body sprang different universities to rear scientists, technicians and experts in all branches of learning.

6) THE FIRST BONFIRE OF THE MOVEMENT FOR NATION-BUILDING

The great leader took the initiative in getting the Potong River improvement project under way. This project aimed at transforming nature in our country.

The Potong River is a tributary of the Taedong River that flows across the central part of the capital of the Democratic

People's Republic of Korea. It is not a particularly large river but its valley contains comparatively wide, fertile arable land. This river has always played an important part in the development of Pyongyang and in the lives of its citizens. However, neither successive feudal rulers nor the Japanese imperialist aggressors made any attempt to control the river. They left it as it was so that for centuries even a small amount of heavy rain resulted in the whole valley being flooded and caused a great deal of damage.

Unable to find secure places in Pyongyang, poor citizens and peasant emigrants had no choice but to build their shacks on the river sides, although they knew that each rainy season would bring them a heavy flood. The more the inhabitants, the greater the damage. In 1942, three years before liberation, there was a severe flood which washed away more than 2,000 hectares of paddy and dry fields and over 1,000 houses. More than 50,000 people were affected.

The great leader planned grand nature-transformation projects to permanently free our people from the fetters of nature, beginning with bringing the bitter history of the Potong River to a close. By completing the Potong River improvement project on our own, he also aimed at imbuing the people with firm confidence that our happiness can and must be created by ourselves and only then can we emerge victorious from the great struggle to build a new country. He set an ambitious target of finishing this vast project within only a few months by utilizing the patriotic labour services of the citizens of Pyongyang.

On May 21, 1946, the Potong River improvement project was started.

The great leader attended the ground-breaking ceremony for the project. He made an encouraging speech to the citizens who afforded him an enthusiastic welcome. He was the first to

dig a shovel into the earth in this historic improvement project.

The project site became increasingly animated with each passing day. More and more Pyongyang citizens joined in the project, calling the Potong Plain the centre of nation-building and a patriotic workplace. Housewives, old people and schoolchildren were no exception. In addition to the Pyongyang citizens, volunteers came from all over the country. From the beginning of July rain began to fall continuously and the river swelled. However, the constructors made self-sacrificing efforts in order to finish the project by July 15, far ahead of the schedule, in a mere 55 days.

This was how the embankments, 5,000 metres long and consisting of more than 420,000 cubic metres of earth, came to be erected, and how the Potong River acquired new streams.

The Potong River improvement project, which was carried out on the great leader's initiative and under his guidance, was of historic importance in that it marked the beginning of the struggle to build a prosperous, independent and sovereign state, the struggle to transform nature in our country.

The flame of the nation-building movement that he kindled in the democratic capital spread throughout the country; it manifested itself in such mass movement for construction as the projects for the repair of the port at Tanchon, for the Samsin coal-transport line, for the Amnok River embankment, for the Ryonghung River improvement, for the Haeju port construction and the Pyongyang-Kyonghung railway improvement.

On April 6, 1947, the great leader climbed Munsu Hill and planted trees. This marked the commencement of another giant project to turn our mountains that had been denuded by the Japanese imperialists back into forests.

The great leader's magnificent plan of getting a stream, a

tree, any resource one can think of, to serve the people's happiness and the country's prosperity was in full bloom so that an earthly paradise, beautiful and good to live in, began to appear in this land.

7) THE GREAT LEADER RECEIVED SOUTH KOREAN REPORTERS

South Korea was liberated from the colonial rule of Japanese imperialism on the same day and at the same time as north Korea, but, owing to the US imperialist colonial enslavement policy, it advanced along the road of reaction and subjugation and found itself in grave danger of becoming an imperialist colony again.

How to overcome an impending national disaster and the difficult situation in the south Korean revolution?

The south Korean revolutionaries, democrats and broad masses of all strata were apprehensive about the nation's future and attracted to the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, the legendary hero.

A succession of south Korean revolutionaries, representatives of democratic political parties and social organizations, and private individuals crossed the 38th parallel and visited Pyongyang to seek advice from the great leader.

Among them there were the *Seoul Sinmun* reporters. It was on December 28, 1945 that they arrived in Pyongyang.

Informed of their arrival, the great leader received them the next day and gave clear-cut answers to a range of questions that were put to him by the south Korean reporters who had made a long journey across the 38th parallel in cold weather.

He placed particular emphasis on the road Korea should follow in the future and the efforts the south Korean people should make. He began by exposing the reactionary nature of the “policy of building a bourgeois republic” put forward by Syngman Rhee, the traitor to the nation, and analysing the unjust views of some people who, raising the slogan of socialist revolution, advocated attempting to accomplish it immediately. Then he commented on the road the liberated Korea should take:

“Which road, then, should we take? For long years our country was under the colonial rule of Japanese imperialism and the present society of Korea is strongly impregnated with Japanese imperialist and feudal remnants. That is why our liberated people must carry out the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution and advance along the road of building a Democratic People’s Republic.”

To this end, he continued, a democratic national united front representing all patriotic, democratic forces of various strata must be formed on a firm basis. He also emphasized that when the whole people, closely rallied, rise to build a new Korea, all the reactionaries including pro-Japanese elements and national traitors can be eliminated and a new, democratic Korea built successfully. He added that it is of particular importance in our nation-building to reject the idea of depending on outside forces and to have an undeviating viewpoint that everything has to be tackled by our own efforts.

So far, they had heard conflicting opinions about the road Korea should take from bourgeois politicians and self-styled communists in south Korea, and they had read a lot of Marxist literature. However, the great leader’s words were quite strange to them as they expressed entirely original ideas based on the concrete reality of our country which they had never heard from anyone before nor read in any book.

Now that they were able to inform the south Korean people of the road the liberated Korea should take, which had been illumined by the great leader, their joy and emotions knew no bounds. They asked him for a photo. But he declined their offer, saying:

“What is the use of my picture? I have done nothing to speak of. Why, then, need my picture be sent to the press?” Then he went on to say that if they really wanted one, he would find them one if there were any in existence.

And when he was asked by the reporters to tell them about the anti-Japanese armed struggle that he led, he replied that there was nothing in particular to be proud of but that if they wished to listen to the story at any rate, he would let them meet some of his comrades-in-arms.

The great leader hoped that once back in Seoul, they would tell the truth to the south Korean people about what they had seen and heard here in the north, since false propaganda of one kind or another against the north and against communism was being disseminated in south Korea. He then said that the reporters of the liberated, new Korea must be on the side of the people and serve them and fight resolutely against all the reactionaries at home and abroad. He emphasized that they must not write as onlookers but write from the point of view of the interests of the country and the nation. They must reject falsehood and exaggeration and inform people of the truth, so as to awaken them politically and inspire them to revolutionary struggle.

The south Korean reporters stayed in Pyongyang over a week. They heard a lot about the anti-Japanese armed struggle and saw with their own eyes how the people in the north were striving to build a new country.

On the eve of their departure for the long and tedious

journey home, the great leader received them again and had lunch with them.

He said: "I am here not in Seoul but my thoughts are always with the south Korean brothers. What we are doing here is not only for the sake of north Korea. When we waged guerrilla warfare at the risk of our lives, we aimed at liberating the whole of Korea, not just north Korea. Please inform south Korean people that although we cannot meet each other because of the US imperialists, we never forget them even for a moment. We have, indeed, a lot to do here for the day when we go and meet the south Korean brothers!"

The reporters returned to Seoul with the deepest reverence for the great leader. They now reposed their trust in him. They carried the article entitled "Our Hero General Kim Il Sung" together with his picture in the *Seoul Sinmun*, *Choson Inminbo* and *Sin Chonji*, in defiance of all sorts of persecution and obstructive measures on the part of reactionaries. The article read:

"December 29, 1945—the year of liberation. The morning sunshine beams into a certain room in Haebang-dong, Pyongyang City. Now we reporters come face to face with General Kim Il Sung, our nation's very own military genius and youthful hero.

"When the fate of our nation was at stake under Japanese imperialist rule, General Kim Il Sung was the sun and hope of the nation as his name implies. How many young people derived courage from the sound of his name and rose up in the great struggle!... We can see his features clearly and distinctly. A dark-red face, gentle double-lidded eyes, dimples appear in his cheeks when he smiles—He is quite a handsome young man... His large-minded, open-hearted, cheerful character and modesty lead one to regard him as an old acquaintance.

"It is difficult to know where he gets his stamina and

courage from... At the age of 18, he organized a guerrilla army and took up arms against the Japanese. From then on the General's activities were such a thorn in their side that they compared his unit with their 15 divisions... He loves the masses, especially the young people, very much, He is always prepared to meet anybody personally. He will always listen to them and answer their questions courteously... As a citizen, General Kim is now living among the masses. Korea must pay attention to how his youthful intelligence and courage are expressed in the nation's future progress."

The article described the political line and the path of struggle illumined by the great leader, and his warm love for the people. The newspapers, which carried his picture and showed the road Korea must follow, were conveyed from hand to hand, inspiring the south Korean people with great excitement and joy.

8) MESSRS. HO HON AND RYO UN HYONG, PATRIOTIC DEMOCRATS IN SOUTH KOREA

The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung not only illumined the road the people in south Korea should take, but also paid close attention to firmly rallying all the patriotic democratic forces there, who loved the country and the nation.

At that time in south Korea the democratic forces were not united but divided because of the factional strife of the sectarians.

The great leader was deeply concerned for the work of fostering cooperation with those patriotic democrats who

exercised influence among the people, with a view to preventing all sorts of sectarian moves and achieving national unity. In spite of intense pressure of work, he found time to write personally to the leading south Korean patriotic democrats and was always willing to receive a visit from any of them without exception. He gave them detailed advice and led them warmly to struggle in the forefront of the masses for building a democratic, new Korea.

Messrs. Ho Hon and Ryo Un Hyong were notable south Korean patriotic democrats.

Mr. Ho Hon was a man who, under Japanese imperialist rule, followed unwaveringly the patriotic, anti-Japanese road, with the grief of national ruin in his heart, and kept national principles unsullied. As a conscientious lawyer, he sincerely sympathized with the Korean communists and supported them in their anti-Japanese armed struggle. He himself launched a legal struggle and affiliated himself with the democratic movement.

Immediately after liberation, however, he was at a loss what to do under south Korea's gloomy circumstances. He expressed, through person or message, an earnest desire to meet the great leader.

The great leader himself sent a message to Mr. Ho Hon. He took the view that he should never neglect the plight of such a democrat and that we communists were duty bound to offer him a helping hand at this critical moment.

The letter read that if we are to win the complete independence of the country and build a new, prosperous, democratic Korea, we must have the right attitude towards nation-building. We must not cherish any illusions about the United States but cultivate a sense of national independence and we must unite with any people who love their country,

irrespective of their party affiliation, religious belief and political views.

The letter was immediately conveyed to Mr. Ho Hon in whom it stirred deep emotions and delight. He unswervingly upheld patriotic principles with fresh strength and courage, and waged an unyielding struggle against the US imperialists and their lackeys.

As was known later, Hodge, the commander of the US imperialist aggressor army occupying south Korea, summoned him to the "US Military Government Office" to coerce him into joining the Syngman Rhee clique, but he resisted him bravely, banging the table with his fist.

As taught by the great leader, Mr. Ho Hon worked hard to achieve the unity of patriotic democrats, unite the broad masses and expand the democratic forces. He grew into a communist, steadily following the sacred road of revolution for the country and the people.

Having been received and taught by the great leader, Mr. Ryo Un Hyong, the former Chairman of the Korean People's Party in south Korea, also fought unyieldingly to the last moment.

He fought for Korea's independence, upholding national principles in spite of Japanese imperialist persecution. After liberation he made strenuous efforts to contribute to the building of a new country, without forsaking his national conscience.

He became despondent when he ran into what seemed to him insuperable difficulties in his political activities owing to the persecution and terror of the US imperialists occupying south Korea and the right-wing reactionaries and to the intrigues of the Pak Hon Yong clique. It was then that he heard from Mr. Ho Hon of the great leader's nation-building policy and the deep interest he was taking in him. No sooner

had he learned of this than he called on the great leader. Subsequently he crossed the 38th parallel on many occasions to hear his valuable teachings.

He was, first of all, deeply impressed by the respected leader's great idea and theory, by his strategy and tactics, and by his logical and persuasive words.

On the first occasion when he visited him, the great leader criticized the "political views" of the self-styled "politicians" in both the north and south of Korea, and said: "Our country, freed from the Japanese imperialist colonial rule, must not take the road followed by other countries blindly. We must, under any circumstances, carry on the work of nation-building in a Korean fashion. Neither American clothes nor Soviet clothes become Koreans. We must not wear ill-fitting foreign clothes but make clothes which fit us in the Korean style."

He defined the character of the Korean revolution at the present stage, and went on to say that proceeding from this character, we must take the road of Korean-style democracy in keeping with the actual conditions prevailing in our country. He detailed the content of the Korean-style democracy and set clear tasks for achieving it. Then he noted that we must not rely on outside forces but under all circumstances put our faith in the concerted efforts of the Korean nation. He gave a concrete account of the necessity and principle of forming a democratic united front and of those who should be enlisted. He was deeply impressed by the great leader's simplicity and the fact that he was a genuine man of the people.

While the great leader was giving him invaluable advice, lunch time came before anyone realized.

"Now let's go to my house," he said, "and have a humble lunch. If you had informed me of your arrival in advance, I

would have had something suitable prepared... You appeared suddenly so you are to blame.”

As they entered his home, Mr. Ryo Un Hyong was quite astonished to find that his was just an ordinary house rather than an official residence. The simple furniture and appointments in the room surprised him still further.

A little while later, lunch was served; the table was not inlaid with mother-of-pearl and the food was simple. After lunch Mr. Ryo Un Hyong took off his jacket as if he were in his own home and opened his heart.

“Now that I have heard you I feel a sense of relief. I now see the road that our Korea must take. Frankly speaking, I have met not only south Korean politicians, but also well-known foreign political figures. But this is the first time I have ever met anyone like you General. I am not just saying this out of politeness but in real earnest that since we have had you, General, good fortune has begun to smile upon Korea...”

Repenting of the shameful things he had done, apart from his subjective desire to devote himself to the country and the nation, he was firmly determined to work hard in accordance with the General’s instructions.

9) DEVELOPING THE COMMUNIST PARTY INTO A MASS POLITICAL PARTY

To develop the Communist Party, a revolutionary party of the working class, into a mass political party was an urgent requirement for the development of the Party itself and of our revolution.

It was only when the Communist Party developed into a mass party that its ranks could be expanded on a broader

basis from the class point of view and that the Party could become a powerful party with its roots struck deep among the broad masses. And only when the working class and other labouring masses were under one party's unified leadership, could they carry out successfully a revolutionary struggle through their concerted efforts.

Moreover, in order to consolidate the alliance between the working class, the peasantry and the working intellectuals that had been sealed through the democratic reforms and to develop the revolution onto a higher stage, it was imperative to further strengthen their unity and solidarity.

In north Korea, however, there existed both the Communist Party and the New Democratic Party. This created obstacles in the way of the working masses' organizational unity and solidarity.

Such being the case, if these two parties continued to exist separately, the working masses could not avoid the danger of becoming divided in which case they would not succeed in their revolutionary tasks.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung assessed this situation correctly and set out the policy of founding the Workers' Party, the unified headquarters and the sole militant vanguard of the working masses, through the merger of the two parties.

But the Right and "Left" opportunists and factionalists were not willing to accept this proposal meekly. They indulged in sectarian strife. They obstructed the merger overtly and covertly. There were allegations that the Communist Party was about to turn to the Right or become a petty-bourgeois party.

However, the great leader firmly believed that the merger of the two parties could be successfully realized, drawing on his rich experience in laying the organizational and ide-

ological foundations for building our Party after smashing all sorts of enemy manoeuvres, and on the successes in Party building and in fulfilling the tasks for the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution after liberation.

He commenced preparations for the merger without delay. He felt secure in the belief that, between the hard-core communists trained and seasoned in the flames of the anti-Japanese armed struggle and the large numbers of sound communists reared rapidly since liberation, the Communist Party had the potential to be developed into a working people's mass political party and that the rapidly-increasing Party membership could be trained to become communists and revolutionaries.

To ensure the success of the merger, the great leader held the 8th Enlarged Executive Committee Meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of North Korea on July 27, 1946.

At the meeting he made a report and then answered various questions that were raised. A few factionalists made absurd attempts to realize their aims and spoil the atmosphere of the meeting. A certain factionalist asked if the merger of the Communist Party with the New Democratic Party, a petty-bourgeois party, would not make our Party a "party of the petty bourgeoisie" or signal a turn to the "Right".

The great leader pointed out that such a view derived from the sort of petty-bourgeois self-importance and chauvinism that underrates others and that although the members of the New Democratic Party were of petty-bourgeois origin, they would become fine revolutionaries and communists, once they learned the revolutionary idea of the working class and resolved to strive to advance working-class interests. He emphasized that such a self-righteous, ultra-"Leftist" view was the same as an inverted Rightist view and that it was

especially necessary to sharpen vigilance against Rightist venom. He went on to say that if they thought our Party's guiding idea must be something different from the working-class revolutionary idea because it was becoming the Workers' Party, they were quite mistaken.

The factionalists who had come out with this unjust allegation raised their heads no longer.

That day the great leader spent a long time replying to every single question anyone wished to raise before publishing the programme for the merger of the two parties which he had drafted himself.

The meeting was followed by the Enlarged Joint Meeting of the Central Committees of the Communist Party of North Korea and the New Democratic Party of Korea on July 29, 1946.

The enlarged joint meeting unanimously supported and approved the great leader's report, "The Present Political Situation and Our New Tasks". It adopted a resolution on founding the Workers' Party through the amalgamation of the Communist Party and the New Democratic Party and published the declaration of the merger of the two parties.

After the joint meeting the draft Programme and Rules of the Party and other documents on the merger were discussed throughout the Party. Meetings about the merger were held from Party cell to provincial Party committee in turn. In the course of this process, some deviations were revealed, and plots were hatched by some factionalists and reactionaries.

Thanks to the wise guidance of the great leader, however, the work of merging the local Party organizations was carried out smoothly in a matter of one month. He then held the Inaugural Congress of the Workers' Party of North Korea. It lasted for three days from August 28. It was attended by more than 800 representatives from among over 276,000

Communist Party members and over 90,000 New Democratic Party members, and by more than 100 observers representing all political parties and social organizations.

At the congress the great leader delivered the historic report, “For the Establishment of a United Party of the Working Masses”. In the report, he clarified the necessity of the founding of the Workers’ Party, the Party’s character and tasks, its central role in all endeavours to promote the country’s independence, sovereignty and democratization and strengthen the Democratic National United Front, and its tasks for consolidating the unity and solidarity of the Party ranks ideologically and in every other way possible.

The congress fully supported and approved his report and elected the Party Central Committee headed by the respected Comrade Kim Il Sung.

The Workers’ Party of Korea that had now been founded would be able to strike its roots deep among the broad masses and rally them firmly around itself.



III. REVOLUTION TO A HIGHER STAGE

1) THE FIRST DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS

If the revolution is to be advanced to a higher stage, the question of power, a question fundamental to the revolution, must first be solved because complex and heavy tasks must be carried out during the stage of the socialist revolution.

An important factor in this issue is how the dictatorship of the proletariat should be established.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung laid down the policy of setting up the proletarian dictatorship by strengthening the people's government to suit the specific situation in our country.

The Provisional People's Committee of North Korea was a people's democratic dictatorship. It carried out the tasks of the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution. Through a practical struggle it patently proved to be a genuine people's government which represented and championed the people's interests. Convinced through actual life experience that only the people's government was able to provide them with democratic freedom and rights and a happy life, the people placed unqualified trust in this government.

It was possible, therefore, to develop into a proletarian dictatorship capable of carrying out the tasks of the socialist revolution by consolidating the existing people's government,

not by founding any other type of government.

From the point of view of uniting as many sections of the patriotic, democratic forces as possible and continuing to enlist in the socialist revolution the same great enthusiasm which the masses had displayed in the democratic revolution, it was very important to develop the people's government into a proletarian dictatorship by preserving this type of government which was based on the democratic national united front and by enhancing its functions and role.

Taking all these factors into account, the great leader made, at the stage of the democratic revolution, all the arrangements for developing the people's government into a proletarian dictatorship. On the basis of this success, he ensured that democratic elections were held.

The Provisional People's Committee of North Korea decided to hold elections to the provincial, city and county people's committees simultaneously throughout north Korea on November 3, 1946.

These were the first democratic elections to be held in the history of our country.

These elections were very important because they would consolidate the provisional people's committee on a legal basis, strengthen working-class leadership and the worker-peasant alliance through the improvement of its class composition, and enhance the functions and role of the organs of the people's government in conformity with the tasks of the revolution at the new stage.

After liberation, the people had become the owners of land and factories and masters of the country but they had never taken part in an election. Even the word, "election", was a novelty to many of them.

The great leader took the view therefore that the people must first be prepared politically and ideologically. In order

to ensure that they were properly prepared, he sent well-qualified officials to all parts of the country, while he himself set out on a tour of on-the-spot guidance.

The great leader permitted himself no respite in his tour of on-the-spot guidance. Sometimes he travelled hundreds of miles by rail in a single day. On other days he would drive across dozens of miles of mountain roads. While dewdrops still glistened in the grass he would climb steep paths on foot to visit remote mountain villages. He was meeting provincial or county officials to discuss what preparations for the elections were being made. Sometimes he would be arriving unannounced to take part in an assembly of village voters or helping some propagandists to correct the watchwords for elections prepared by them. He also addressed mass rallies and he visited factories to inspire the workers with great enthusiasm for production, so that everyone was encouraged to display a high degree of patriotic enthusiasm and achieve great successes to greet the forthcoming elections.

As a result the political awareness and the enthusiasm of our people attained unprecedented heights, and the whole country was gripped by election fever.

Those were indeed momentous days.

As the nomination of the candidates for the people's committee began, all the constituencies throughout the country sent letters to him, expressing the unanimous desire of their voters to nominate him as their candidate.

The people of Samdung Sub-county, Kangdong County, South Pyongan Province, also wrote to him. When they did not feel sufficiently reassured, they even sent their representatives to see him personally on October 14.

The great leader received them cordially and complied with the request of the old men of Samdung Sub-county for an interview.

The next day 12 visitors from the sub-county, the representatives of the old men, workers, peasants and students, came to see him.

The great leader gave them clear explanations to all the questions they asked concerning the first democratic elections. At the end of the interview, old man Paek, the eldest of the representatives, stood up and said that their delight at nominating him was beyond description. He also said that the people of the Samdung Sub-county were eager to receive a visit from the General. The respected leader agreed with pleasure to their wishes and on October 16, paid a visit to Samdung Sub-county to meet the voters. The local people spread the roll of cotton cloth they had woven on the path where the great leader would walk. He told them that cotton cloth was for making clothes for the people, not something for him to walk on. He had the cloth taken away and then he made his way to the welcoming rally.

As the election day came nearer, the people's political enthusiasm rose higher, while the enemy engaged in an increasing number of insidious acts. The enemy made every attempt to drive a wedge into the solid unity of the democratic forces and to throw cold water on the people's soaring enthusiasm for the elections.

One October day several days before the election, a "Joint Conference of Presbyterian Churches of the Five Provinces" gave what they called a mental training course, at the end of which the Conference decided that churchgoers should not go to the polls because the elections were going to be held on the Sabbath (Sunday).

Late that night Minister Kang Ryang Uk (the then Vice-Chairman of the Democratic Party) learned about the decision. He reported it to the great leader early the following morning.

The great leader thought the matter over for a while without saying anything. Then he remarked that it was an excuse to boycott the elections. He personally met some influential ministers of the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches.

He said that according to the Bible good things could be done even on the Sabbath, that the elections were an undertaking to select the people's representatives to manage the affairs of the country properly, that fine representatives should be selected from among the men of religion and that religious believers should elect fine representatives of the people. He said that nothing could be more honourable and proud than working for one's country and people, and that the elections to the people's committee were a good undertaking for the country and people. "So why should the churchgoers not go to the polls, since they can do good things even on the Sabbath?" The great leader put his argument earnestly.

He also said that what the enemy feared most was the unity of our nation. He pointed out that if they were deceived by the enemy's scheme they would be committing an indelible crime against the country and the people, and that committing such a crime would mean betraying their fellow believers.

Then the great leader explained our Party's consistent policy on religion and beliefs once again. He said that he would ensure that every convenience would be provided so that nothing would interfere with the services at the churches. He told them to go home without any worry and convey his words to their congregations.

The ministers were conscience-stricken on hearing the respected leader's cogent and impressive arguments and said unanimously that they would do so without fail

On their return home, they not only informed their

congregations that the decision of the “Joint Conference of Presbyterian Churches of the Five Provinces” was mistaken, but all of them took part in the elections.

November 3, 1946, the day of the first democratic elections, came.

On the morning of this day when the whole country and the whole nation was vibrant with joy and emotion, the respected leader Comrade Kim Il Sung went to the 52nd sub-constituency, the 6th constituency, Pyongyang City, and cast the first ballot. The democratic elections culminated in a great victory.

On the basis of the historic victory in the elections to the provincial, city and county people’s committees, the Congress of the Provincial, City and County People’s Committees of North Korea was held in Pyongyang in February, 1947. This congress founded the People’s Assembly of North Korea, the highest organ of power.

This was followed by the opening of the first session of the People’s Assembly of North Korea. The session acclaimed the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung as the Chairman of the People’s Committee of North Korea.

The assembly hall shook with a storm of applause and cheering, “Long live General Kim Il Sung!”

It was the unanimous desire of all the Korean people to acclaim the respected leader Comrade Kim Il Sung as the Chairman of the People’s Committee of North Korea.

When the whole country and the whole of the nation was seething with great joy and excitement, the respected leader Comrade Kim Il Sung announced the historic birth of the People’s Committee of North Korea, the first proletarian dictatorship in our country, to the whole world.

Using the People’s Committee of North Korea as a weapon, our people began to carry out the tasks of the

transition period, a period of gradual transition to socialism, a new higher stage of the revolution.

2) A GENERAL IDEOLOGICAL MOBILIZATION MOVEMENT FOR NATION-BUILDING

As a result of the success in carrying out the democratic reforms, a people's democratic system was established in the northern half of our country which had been a colonial, semi-feudal society. The workers, peasants and other sections of the working masses who had been subjected to oppression and maltreatment became the owners of the factories and the land.

However, the ideological consciousness of the people was unable to keep pace with the rapid change in the socio-economic conditions. There were radical changes in the socio-economic system and the people's social situation but in people's minds many remnants of the outmoded ideas and bad habits of the past still lingered. These manifested themselves in abuses in various aspects of work and life.

Some officials still retained the bad habits of indulging in luxuries, leading a dissipated life in pursuance of personal pleasure, fearing difficulties and being indolent and lethargic, neglecting efforts to create new things, and being reluctant to study.

Some officials of the government organs failed to rid themselves of the old-fashioned bureaucratic work style and formalistic work methods, with the result that the advantages of the people's government were not being fully displayed.

Quite a few idlers who were holding office in the Pyongyang City People's Committee, for instance, were loafing away their time by drinking and wasting precious state property in order to furnish their own office-rooms or their own houses imposingly.

In some provinces unwarranted taxes were levied on the people. There were some factories and other enterprises where food supplies for the workers were pocketed away dishonestly, and workers' houses were turned over to profiteers for graft.

Some peasants were wasting food grain, saying "Let us eat as much as we can", living carelessly and paying no heed to the food situation in the country as a whole, and idlers even began to gamble.

It was impossible to consolidate the success in the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution and carry out the heavy and complex task of the socialist revolution unless these remnants of the outdated ideas and habits were eliminated and people were armed with a new ideology for nation-building.

With a deep insight into the pressing demands of the developing revolution, the great leader advanced the policy of launching a general ideological mobilization movement for nation-building at the Third Enlarged Meeting of the Provisional People's Committee of North Korea on November 25, 1946, in order to effect a change in the ideological consciousness of the working people.

This campaign was a major undertaking to wipe out all the corrupt and degenerate customs and attitudes towards life left over from the days of Japanese imperialism, and to cultivate the spirit and morals and militant power befitting the officials of a new democratic Korea and so establish a vibrant and vivacious social climate in the nation.

The great leader explained in detail the content and tasks of the general ideological mobilization movement for nation-building.

In the first place, it meant displaying the spirit of national independence, the spirit of self-reliance—the spirit to build a new country by our own efforts, overcoming all difficulties.

Because of nearly half a century of Japanese colonial rule the national economy had become crippled and deformed and what there was of it had been largely sabotaged by the enemy before they fled.

All that we took over were devastated factories, chaotic transport facilities, a bankrupt agriculture, and safes that held nothing but ledgers. There were a great many things that we lacked and a lot of difficulties stood in our way.

In these circumstances, everyone had to become conscious of being the master of a new country in the making, produce what was lacking and endure the shortage of supplies. People had to grit their teeth and surmount every difficulty.

An important task here was to eliminate servile attitudes, flunkeyism towards great powers, national nihilism, degenerate and decadent habits of life—the leftovers from Japanese colonial rule—and enhance the spirit of national independence, the revolutionary spirit to accomplish everything by our own efforts.

The movement also aimed at establishing a new people-orientated morality that was to place communal interests above those of individuals and take good care of state and social property.

To this end, it was necessary to combat all wasteful practices, frauds and embezzlements, and launch a mass economy drive in all spheres ranging from the management of the state economy to individual consumption. It was also necessary for everyone to help each other and unite with each

other so that they can all develop together.

In addition, the content and tasks of the movement were to surmount difficulties instead of being afraid of them, to criticize shortcomings mercilessly instead of hiding them, to give full play to the creative power of the masses, and to study one's duties diligently, work hard to acquire new knowledge and learn science, and combat personal complacency and the tendency not to learn from the experience of others.

The great leader, having set out the policy of launching the general ideological mobilization movement for nation-building, organized and led the struggle to carry it out.

The movement forged ahead as a campaign involving the whole Party and all the people. Serious criticism and self-criticism were conducted in Party and state bodies, economic establishments, social organizations, factories, farm villages, streets and all other sectors and units.

Through this process, selfishness, pleasure-seeking, bureaucratism, acts of irresponsibility, deception, fraud and embezzlement were exposed to criticism; hostile and heterogeneous elements, position-seekers and loafers were eliminated from the ranks; the work attitude and work style of many officials improved markedly; and the masses' political awareness and patriotic enthusiasm rose as never before.

When the general ideological mobilization movement for nation-building was at its height, farmers in different parts of the country launched a campaign to contribute rice out of patriotism. This campaign spread and developed into a food economy campaign and into a campaign to increase the production of grain.

The general ideological mobilization movement for nation-building scaled new heights in the course of spreading the patriotic campaign to increase goods transportation which was proposed by the railway workers at Chongju.

In this way, the flames of this movement burnt up the surviving remnants of outmoded ideas and outdated habits of life, and built up the national spirit of a new Korea.

3) THE FIRST NATIONAL ECONOMIC PLAN

With an ambitious idea of building an independent national economy, the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung called upon our people to carry out the National Economic Plan for 1947.

This was the first economic rehabilitation and development plan in our country. It was drawn up at the beginning of the transition period.

As political power was transferred into the hands of the people, and as the democratic reforms, particularly the agrarian reform and the nationalization of the major industries, were effected after liberation, the conditions were created for a planned development of the national economy.

However, the operation of a planned economy was a total novelty. None of us had any knowledge of economic plans or of the management of enterprises, nor did we have any basic data worth mentioning.

Nevertheless, the great leader took upon himself the difficult task and ensured that the national economic development plan for 1947 was adopted at the Congress of the Provincial, City and County People's Committees of North Korea held in February 1947.

This plan envisaged doubling industrial production in 1947 over 1946 and developing agriculture and the consumer

industry so that the needs of the inhabitants for food and consumer goods were met.

It was a very difficult undertaking to attain such ambitious objectives in the initial period of economic construction. That was why, when the plan was published, the opponents said that “the plan was preposterous”, and even some of our friends expressed apprehension that the objectives of the plan seemed over-ambitious.

However, the great leader believed that, whatever the conditions and however arduous the tasks were, the plan had to be and could be carried out by our own efforts. He believed in our liberated people who were afire with revolutionary ardour and had inexhaustible creative power.

The successes that were achieved in 1946 convinced the great leader of this.

In fact, our working class had put 822 factories and other enterprises into operation by January 1, 1947, and the farmers, full of joy at being owners of land, had increased grain output by more than 3,400,000 *sok* during the previous year.

In order to carry out the first national economic plan successfully, the great leader gave ceaseless on-the-spot guidance to different sectors of the national economy.

For the purpose of easing the strain on rail transport, he guided the work of the Chongjin and Wonsan Railway Factories; with a view to solving the problem of the people's diet, he directed the work of the Pyongyang Cornstarch Factory; in order to solve the problem of people's clothing, he gave on-the-spot guidance to the Pyongy ng Silk Mill and many other factories and enterprises. In the wake of his long journey of continual on-the-spot guidance, he left behind him a legacy of numerous anecdotes about his warm love for the working class.

On his second tour of on-the-spot guidance to different sectors of North Hamgyong Province that year, the great leader arrived at the Songjin Steel Plant on September 26 and inspected the production site accompanied by the officials of the steel plant.

When he came to the arc furnace shop, an official of the steel plant advised him not to enter the shop because the work there was hazardous and dangerous. "Why shouldn't I enter the shop where the men are at work!" he said and entered it without any hesitation.

Indeed, the arc furnace was a cheap, primitive one that the Japanese imperialists had installed for the purpose of plundering our country of its resources at random.

The furnace was approximately two metres in height, and ten metres in length, without a roof. It had high tension electric poles which were melting iron ore concentrates mixed with anthracite.

The smelters were toiling in extreme heat amid the deafening groan of the sparking poles and a foggy veil of thick fumes and iron dust.

Prior to liberation, electric leakage from the underground high tension line leading to the furnace resulted in daily fatalities. As many as 38 men were said to have died in a single day. The respected leader watched anxiously the flaming furnace and the toiling smelters bathed in sweat. Finally he announced in a decisive tone of voice:

"However precious steel may be, we cannot let the men work in these conditions."

The officials who were accompanying the great leader all looked up at him at the same time. The smelters who were running around with their iron rods, and the haulage workers who were pushing their carts, all stopped moving as if they had been petrified.

In those days steel was urgently needed for the reconstruction of factories, for coal mining and for housing construction. A maximum amount of iron was needed everywhere, particularly at that time because efforts were being concentrated on the last phase of carrying out the first national economic plan.

However, neither the Hwanghae Iron Works nor the Chongjin Steel Works had yet commenced operation.

Presently the sonorous voice of the respected leader sounded again above the noisy groan of the electric poles:

“The precious lives of our men can never be bartered for steel no matter how precious steel is. This workshop should be shut down although it means a substantial loss in steel output.”

The great love for the men, the love expressed in his pronouncement that a steel workshop should be shut down in order to protect the men's lives at a time when the economic situation was so difficult, set the hearts of our working class afire with unfailing loyalty and encouraged them to perform heroic deeds.

A great enthusiasm for creation and construction spread all over the country. The quotas of the first national economic plan were exceeded in all sectors. The plan of total output value for state-run industry was exceeded by 2.5 per cent, and a large number of factories, coal and ore mines, and power stations were reconstructed.

By exceeding the 1947 national economic plan through the display of the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance, our working class laid the first solid cornerstone for the construction of an independent national economy and demonstrated to the whole world that the Korean people were capable of building their country into a prosperous, independent and sovereign state.

4) TO PROVIDE LIFE-GIVING WATER

In the northern half agrarian reform was carried out and a rich crop was harvested in the first year after liberation. As a result the shortage of food was eased to a considerable extent. However, as an aftereffect of the long-drawn-out colonial agricultural policy pursued by the Japanese imperialists, the food shortage still remained a serious problem.

Unless sufficient food supplies were provided, it was impossible to stabilize and improve the living standards of the people quickly, nor was it possible to reconstruct and develop the national economy and accelerate the building of a new country.

Therefore, the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung saw to it that irrigation construction was undertaken widely and the area of paddy fields under irrigation was increased in order to give rice production a rapid boost.

In our country where the weather is very dry in spring and rainfall heavy in summer, high and steady yields of crop were not to be expected without solving the problem of irrigation. If the area of cultivated land was to be increased and the best use made of existing farm land, irrigation water was indispensable. In view of the lack of the economic foundations for the introduction of electricity, machinery and chemicals into agriculture in those days, irrigation was all the more important as a potential means of raising the grain yields.

That was why the great leader made preparations for irrigation construction from the days immediately after liberation, looking far into the future. On this basis, he made

sure that the large-scale projects that required state assistance and the small and medium projects that had to be carried out by the farmers themselves were undertaken simultaneously.

This was why, when the country's economic situation was difficult, a large amount of money—155,000,000 *won* (in terms of old currency)—was appropriated for irrigation construction, and all the potentials and possibilities were mobilized for this enterprise. Irrigation projects, large and small, got underway in all parts of the country, as a campaign that involved all the people. Workers and office employees from factories and enterprises throughout the country came out in support of the farmers, and machinery and materials were concentrated on irrigation construction. As a result, all these projects were basically finished before the rice transplanting season, and irrigation water flowed into 22,600 hectares of fields. The water which ran through the newly-built irrigation canals was, indeed, a life-giving water to the farmers who used to wait impatiently for the rain to come.

On June 7, 1947, when the rice transplanting season was just beginning, the great leader went to the Mirim Plain near Pyongyang and took part in transplanting on the first day of the season.

News of this gave great encouragement to the farmers throughout the country and the people who were working in support to the farmers.

In the irrigated fields rice seedlings were growing healthy and strong. The melodious songs of the farmers who had become the owners of their fields resounded across the plains.

Nevertheless, the great leader, who was never content with the results, used to come out to the edges of some fields in the early morning when their owners had not yet arrived and test the water to see whether it was not too cold. At the

beginning of the rainy season, he used to inspect rivers, measuring the hourly rise of the water, discovering the weak points in the dykes and taking the necessary measures. When the rainy season was over, he used to look around the fields to see if there were any damaged embankments and find out how many fields had been washed away by the flood. He ensured that materials, manpower and even dredgers from the ship-yards were mobilized for river improvements.

Thanks to his unremitting efforts the farmers were provided with life-giving water and were able to raise rich crops by overcoming drought and rainstorms.

5) NEW HISTORY OF A “GOLDEN MOUNTAIN”

Leading the rural economy onto the new path of development, the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung paid close attention to farm villages in mountainous regions as well as those in the lowland and intermediate areas.

There is a larger area of mountainous terrain than of plains in our country. The peasants in the mountainous regions were lagging behind the people in the plains in various respects. The mountain peasants, who had been eking out a bare subsistence by slash and burn methods were still unable to improve their living standards even after liberation. The great leader was very concerned about this. He paid a visit to Yangdok, a mountainous county in the central region, late in September, 1947, on his way back from his tour of on-the-spot guidance in North Hamgyong and Kangwon Provinces in the east coast region of our country.

In those days Yangdok County was known to be the

poorest in South Pyongan Province. On entering the county his car turned off the highway and travelled through an unnamed valley for approximately four kilometres until even the cart track which his car had been following faded away and a little brook appeared. The great leader got out of his car. He crossed the brook by stepping stones and took a lane through an entanglement of wild vines. He walked along the lane for a good while and found a log-cabin at the dead end of the valley, which is now called Kujigol, Unhari, Yangdok County.

When he stepped into the yard of the log-cabin, the great leader took off his cap and greeted the old man of the house.

“How do you do, Grandfather!”

“You are from the county town, aren’t you? I think I have met you somewhere...”

The old man never dreamed that the great leader would visit this remote mountain place.

He offered a cigarette to the old man and even struck a match to light it for him. He then asked him about the living conditions there.

The great leader intended to stay the night at this log-cabin. He followed the old man into the room and condescended to sit down on the floor and talked with him.

The great leader asked detailed questions about which was the principal crop in this part of the country, and what kinds of wild fruit, medicinal herbs and wild vegetables were thriving in the mountains there. He explained to the old man that if the land was made fertile by spreading plenty of manure, and if robust strains of crops were sown, the crop yields could be raised. He added that if the celebrated Yangdok leaf tobacco was cultivated widely and the full agricultural potential of the mountains was utilized the

average family income could be increased without making large investments.

Every word which he spoke seemed to open the old man's eyes. Deeply moved by his words, the old man said, "After listening to you, I feel as if I were seeing the mountains changing into heaps of money." The old man asked the great leader where he came from because he was curious as to how he could know so much about farm work.

Now supper was served. The chairman of the sub-county people's committee arrived and greeted the great leader. Only now did the old man realize who the man was he had been talking to at this out-of-the-way mountain place. Only now did he realize that he was eating supper with the great General at the same dining table. The old man was so overwhelmed with happiness that he did not know what to do with himself.

After supper the old man took out a grubby pocket-book and a pencil stub and jotted something down in the pocket-book.

"I have written down here that General Kim Il Sung has visited our house", said the old man. "I will hand this down to my children."

The respected leader said that it would be better to write "Pick up gold from every mountain!" and hand that down to the children.

That night the great leader sat down on the straw mat in the yard and talked to the villagers deep into the night. Then early the next morning he climbed the steep mountain behind the log-cabin. He felt the soil of the small mountain fields and, making his way through the vines, discovered where wild fruit, medicinal herbs and wild vegetables were growing. He also studied where there was plenty of grass for livestock and even selected for the peasants suitable sites for cattle and sheep pens.

The sub-county officials who were accompanying him begged the great leader to climb down now. But he said that if they were to provide the people with a good life, they would have to tread the morning dew and make their way through the vines earlier than other people. He climbed up further from the Kujigol for four kilometres until he reached the tableland where he saw the sunrise. Only then did he climb down again.

That morning the great leader sat with the officials of the sub-county and ri and the hard-core peasants of the village and talked to them for a long time, teaching them how to improve the living standards of the mountain peasants.

After that, the peasants there fertilized their land by using a lot of manure and grew good crops. They developed their sideline economy on a large scale by making the best use of the mountains and raised a large number of grass-eating farm animals. Thus, they improved their standards of living quickly.

This was the origin of the “Golden Mountain” in our country.

6) PENCIL PRODUCTION PLACED ON THE AGENDA

The Provisional People’s Committee of North Korea, the first genuine people’s government of the liberated country, was faced with many tasks. It had to carry out the agrarian and other democratic reforms, reconstruct the damaged factories quickly and increase production, and ease the shortage of food by developing agriculture.

As the first session of the Provisional People’s Committee

of North Korea approached, different bureaux suggested different items for the agenda. All were matters of urgency.

But it was impossible to discuss all these items at a single meeting. Which, then, had to be discussed first? What should the Provisional People's Committee of North Korea make its first priority?

Comrade Kang Ryang Uk, the then Secretary General of the Provisional People's Committee, arranged matters in the order suggested by the bureaux and submitted the list to the great leader.

On February 20, 1946, the first session of the Provisional People's Committee of North Korea was held.

The great leader declared the session open and announced the items on the agenda. The delegates who were noting them down were all surprised. The problem of pencil production was the item to be discussed at the first session of the Provisional People's Committee of North Korea.

The question of pencil production was totally unexpected. This question was not found among the numerous items suggested by the different departments prior to the meeting. No member of the committee, none of the bureaux, had ever raised this matter for discussion.

Only once had the great leader summoned a senior official of the industrial bureau and given him the assignment of producing pencils. At that time he had told the official that our country, which was lagging far behind modern civilization because of the long-drawn-out period of feudal rule followed by Japanese colonial rule, had to be developed into a civilized country as soon as possible. He had said that both children and adults would have to be taught how to read and write the Korean alphabet, but that there was a problem of shortage of pencils.

During the anti-Japanese armed struggle, he said, al-

though the men learnt how to read and write by writing on the snow and also on the ground when pencils were not available, now that the country was liberated pencils must be produced by our own efforts at all costs.

Although he realized from this that the great leader was very concerned about the production of pencils, the official never dreamed that the question of pencil production would be the major item on the agenda at this historic meeting.

At the meeting the great leader instructed that in order to organize and mobilize the broad masses in the building of a new democratic Korea the problem of pencil supply would have to be solved so as to launch a widespread campaign for cultural enlightenment and enable everyone to study. He said that this was not just a routine business matter. It was a vital political undertaking to educate the younger generation to be competent workers.

He stressed that if the resourcefulness and creativity of the broad masses were enlisted and if measures for providing the equipment and raw materials were taken, we should be perfectly able to produce pencils ourselves. He enumerated each of the measures for pencil production.

As they listened to his speech, the initial surprise which the delegates experienced when the agenda was announced turned to warm admiration for the nobility of his ideals.

As a result, new schools began to spring up throughout the country even in the difficult days immediately after liberation.

In 1946 the number of schools increased to 2,731. This was 1,300 more than the figure for 1945. The total enrolment amounted to over 1,300,000.

From every town and village school bells echoed, and from every house the ringing voices of children reading could be heard.

7) THE CAMPAIGN TO WIPE OUT ILLITERACY

The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung pressed on with the cultural enlightenment movement to eradicate illiteracy among the adult population.

A well-organized adult education system was established from the centre down to the ri. An adult school was set up in every village. During the holiday seasons even the university students were dispatched to different parts of the country to play a part in wiping out illiteracy. A mass campaign to eliminate illiteracy got under way.

On August 4, 1947, a woman from the farm village of Okdo-ri, So Sub-county, Pyonggang County, Kangwon Province, came to pay a visit to the great leader, carrying some wheat and a *mal* of an early crop of potatoes on her head. She wanted to express her gratitude to him for his providing her with land and a happy life.

The great leader received her cordially and asked her about the prospects for the year's crop and the farmers' living conditions. Then he asked her what she was studying at the moment.

The woman blushed and dropped her head. She answered almost in a whisper, "General, I do not yet know how to read."

The great leader said that all Koreans should know how to read and write the Korean alphabet and that it was not too late for her to learn. He instructed her to attend the alphabet school and study hard. She should learn the basics of reading and writing within three months and then write to him.

“Comrade, you should learn how to read and write and then call upon all the other people to launch a campaign to eliminate illiteracy”, the great leader said to her encouragingly.

On her return home, the woman studied hard and proved herself worthy of the trust and expectations placed in her by the respected leader who wanted the peasants, who were now masters of the land, to become the masters of civilization.

One autumn day the same year, the great leader received a letter from the woman from Pyonggang. The letter read:

“General Kim Il Sung,

“I am now able to write to you. In accordance with your request that I should write to you, General, for the past three months, I have studied hard day and night....”

The letter related how she, as instructed by the great leader, learned the alphabet letter by letter; how she grew good crops and led the other people in delivering the tax in kind on her late crops; how interesting it was to raise her own cattle and pigs; how a middle school, a clubhouse and baths had been built in her village; and how things were in her family and in her village.

The letter was so well written that you would hardly believe that it was from the same country woman who had come to see the great leader three months previously.

Commenting that anyone can succeed who tries hard enough, the great leader sent her his reply.

The woman’s letter to the fatherly leader occasioned a mass rally in Pyonggang County at which the rest of the country was called upon to launch a campaign to combat illiteracy.

The campaign set everyone’s heart afire with enthusiasm and spread to every town and farm village, to lowland and highland, throughout the country.

In the spring of 1949 the northern half of the Republic was able to declare that everyone in this part of the country had become literate.

8) FOR THE FLOWERING OF BRILLIANT NATIONAL CULTURE AND ARTS

Down through their long history, our people created a brilliant culture and outstanding works of art and contributed to the flowering of Oriental culture.

However, the Japanese imperialist policy of obliterating our national culture stifled it for a long time and reduced the arts and culture to means of pleasure for the exploiting class, and an instrument to numb our national spirit.

It was impossible to revitalize our people's spirit of national independence and provide them with a cultured life unless arts and culture that would serve the masses of the people were developed quickly.

In the days immediately after liberation, however, there were numerous obstacles to the rehabilitation of our national art and culture and their development on new lines.

In the first place, there were only a small number of writers and artistes available to undertake this work. Even these few were working in different parts of the country, in different organizations and in different ways. Their backgrounds were complex and their qualifications were not very good.

When the country was liberated, there were virtually no human or material resources for our culture and arts, and, to make matters worse, the reactionary bourgeois culture which had been spread by the Japanese imperialists and the

remnants of feudal culture that had lasted for centuries still existed.

In these circumstances, those who asserted the doctrine of art for art's sake, those who advocated a return to the past, and those who preached national nihilism raised their heads in the fields of culture and arts. On the one hand there were those who clamoured for "pure arts" or for the "revival of national classics". On the other were those who advocated the immediate development of "proletarian literature and arts".

In this confusion, quite a few writers and artistes did not know which way to turn or what to do.

In view of this situation, the great leader paid primary attention to strengthening the ranks of the writers and artistes. He sought out the writers who had been resentful at having to give up writing under Japanese imperialist oppression and the artistes who had been deprived of their stage. He enlisted them one by one in the honourable work of developing national culture. On March 25, 1946 he organized the General Federation of Arts of North Korea, a unified central organization embracing the cultural and artistic organizations and writers and artistes in different parts of the country, and thus united them organizationally. He also set up the Central Symphony Orchestra, the State Film Studio and other groups of artistic creators in the capital and provinces.

Having provided the cultural workers and artistes with favourable conditions for their activities, the great leader clearly indicated the path our literature and arts should follow. The literature and arts of a new democratic Korea should be democratic ones that would champion the democratic rights and interests of the working people, and as such they were to serve the workers, farmers and other working people. The cultural workers and artistes were the

fighters on the cultural front. They were entrusted with the responsibility of combatting the reactionary forces which were trying to make Korean society move backwards as well as the responsibility of developing our national culture and educating the masses in patriotism and the democratic spirit.

The great leader also gave detailed instructions on the problem of carrying forward our cultural heritage, the problem of adopting an advanced culture, the problems arising in the development of national culture, and the methods of developing people-orientated, revolutionary national arts and culture.

He made unremitting efforts to endow our newly-developing national culture and arts with a strong Juche-orientated fibre and with a stout revolutionary spirit.

Comrade Li Ul Sol, an anti-Japanese revolutionary veteran (now a general of the Korean People's Army), still remembers vividly an event that took place in April, 1947, when he was assisting the great leader. The great leader told him to prepare a delicious noodle dish for the day's supper because distinguished guests were expected. Comrade Li Ul Sol made preparations to receive the guests, thinking that they must be people returning from abroad after a long stay there or visitors from south Korea. Contrary to his expectations, however, several writers came that evening.

The great leader talked with them until five o'clock the next morning.

In this manner the great leader occasionally met writers, poets and fine artists informally. Sometimes he summoned the senior officials in charge of literature and arts and sometimes he would attend gatherings of artistes and explain to them the mission of literature and arts, the duties of the writers and artistes, the principles of creation and the methods of their application.

Here is an impressive anecdote about how he guided the creation of the Patriotic Song.

In the autumn of 1946 the great leader gave instructions on the need to create a Patriotic Song and on the details of the song's content. He was subsequently given a number of briefings about the progress of the creative work when he rectified the shortcomings in this work and helped the composers in every possible way. Finally on June 27, 1947, a trial hearing was given to the two pieces selected as possibilities for the Patriotic Song after a number of examinations.

A chorus sang the two pieces first.

After listening to them, the great leader looked very satisfied. He spoke very highly of both the songs. Then he concluded that the first one sounded more solemn and carried greater weight than the second and that, therefore, it must become the Patriotic Song while the second one should be sung under a different title.

He squeezed the hands of both the poet who had written the words to the Patriotic Song and the composer who had composed the music and praised them for their efforts. Then he said:

"The last part starting 'And rich in cultural heritage' should be sung as a refrain. Since our country is rich in cultural heritage and has a long history, how can we be content with singing this only once? It would make the song dull, wouldn't it? A refrain would not only improve the effect of the melody and the harmony of the music but also add to the solemnity of the song as a whole, and inspire the singer with national pride and confidence."

None of the poets and composers and writers and artistes assembled there had thought of this until he pointed it out.

The chorus sang the adopted Patriotic Song again:

*Shine bright, you dawn, on this land so fair,
The country of three thousand ri,
So rich in silver and in gold you are,
Five thousand years your history.
Our people ever were renowned and sage,
And rich in cultural heritage,
And as with heart and soul we strive,
Korea shall forever thrive!*

When they repeated that part, it stressed the ideological content, enhanced the solemnity of the music, and sounded more impressive to the audience.

Even in the context of the great economic difficulties immediately after liberation, the great leader stinted nothing if it was for the development of literature and arts. He provided the writers and artistes with all the necessary conditions to display their talents and enthusiasm.

Early in the summer of 1946 a film was scheduled to be produced. But finding the equipment and money for the project was problematic. Fifty thousand *won* was required just to meet the most essential needs.

The film workers were not ignorant of the country's financial situation and were reluctant to raise the matter. After several days of suspense, they made up their minds and submitted their budget sheet for the project to the great leader.

After examining it carefully, the great leader commented that film production was probably not a simple process.

"What can you do with only fifty thousand *won*?" he said. "It seems too small an amount. Try making it with one hundred thousand *won*." He crossed out "5" and wrote "10" instead.

The new figure was indicative of his noble idea to develop a Juche-orientated art.

Mass cultural work was also undertaken widely. Songs and other works of art which were popular with the working masses and easy for them to understand were created in large numbers and popularized. Theatres, cinemas, reading rooms and other cultural establishments were provided in every province and county. Amateur artistic activities were encouraged in factories and farm villages. A variety of art festivals were organized on a national scale.

As a result, our national culture and arts embarked on the new road of development after liberation and began to flower brilliantly.

9) LOVE FOR THE CHILDREN OF REVOLUTIONARY MARTYRS

The beloved revolutionary fighters who had fallen heroically in the sacred war against the Japanese imperialists and the families of these revolutionary martyrs were constantly on the mind of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung in the vibrant days when a new country was being built.

As the days went by his yearning memory of these martyrs grew intense and, as his nostalgia for them grew stronger, he used to say that the sons and daughters of the martyrs had to be brought up to be revolutionaries as soon as possible so that they could take up the cause where their parents left off.

One day early in December, 1946 the great leader made a statement to the following effect:

We must look after the children of our comrades-in-arms

who sacrificed themselves for the country before liberation. When they were breathing their last, they asked us to bring up their children to be revolutionaries when the country was liberated.

I always remember their last wishes. We must become their parents and bring them up to be revolutionaries. We must see that the state builds a school for them and sends them to this school and teaches them to take over where their parents left off. In this way we will fulfil the desire of our comrades-in-arms who offered the last drop of their blood for the liberation of the country.

The anti-Japanese revolutionary veterans, Comrade Rim Chun Chu and Comrade Li Ul Sol, were deeply moved by the great leader's noble sense of obligation to his fallen revolutionary fighters and by his love for their children. But these comrades did not know how to implement the great leader's instructions.

One day in late January, 1947, they received a suggestion from an official of the People's Committee of South Pyongan Province that the patriotic rice that the farmers contributed be used to provide for the living of the workers and office employees. They reported this to the great leader.

The great leader called in the official and said to him that not a grain of the patriotic rice that was permeated with the farmers' loyalty should be wasted but should be used to construct a school building for the children of the revolutionary martyrs.

The site for the school was selected at Mangyongdae, a most historic place.

While pushing ahead with the construction of the school building, the great leader took active measures to fetch the children to the school and commence their education as soon as possible.

In accordance with measures taken by him, temporary school buildings, hostels and dining rooms were arranged in Kanri near Pyongyang. On March 24, 1947, the preparatory committee for the foundation of the school for the children of the revolutionary martyrs was formed by the decision of the People's Committee of North Korea.

The preparatory committee set to work immediately.

Officials were dispatched all over the country and even to Northeast China to make inquiries as to the whereabouts of the martyrs' children. Meanwhile, a large workforce was mobilized for the construction of the temporary school buildings.

One day the great leader summoned Comrade Rim Chun Chu and announced to him that he was going to assign him a difficult task. The great leader told him to leave the affairs of the South Pyongan Provincial Party Committee to another comrade for the time being and go to east Manchuria to seek out the children of the fallen comrades-in-arms as soon as possible and send them to the school.

East Manchuria had been the location of the guerrilla zone on the Tuman River, and there were major battle sites of the anti-Japanese armed struggle in this region.

A large number of Koreans living in this region had participated in the revolutionary struggle against the Japanese imperialists and many of their relations had died in the sacred war to liberate the country. Even after the evacuation of the guerrilla zone, the people there had affiliated themselves with revolutionary organizations and rendered maximum material and moral support to the Korean People's Revolutionary Army. In order to avoid the detectives of the Japanese imperialists and their repression, they had had to change their residence frequently so that there was no knowing where many of them were living.

Arriving in east Manchuria, Comrade Rim Chun Chu sent many people to different places to seek out the families of the revolutionary martyrs. He also had inquiries published in the newspapers.

Not long after his arrival there he gathered approximately one hundred children of the martyrs and sent them to the school.

In this way in the summer of 1947 the martyrs' children who had been scattered in different places began to gather at the school.

The great leader paid frequent visits to the school. He looked after the children with tender care and organized and directed the preparations for the opening of the school.

On the basis of these preparations, a grand ceremony for the inauguration of the Pyongyang School for Bereaved Families of Revolutionaries was held on October 12, 1947.

At the inauguration ceremony the great leader took the floor amidst the enthusiastic cheers of the schoolchildren and the bereaved families. In his speech he reminded the audience of the earnest last wishes of the revolutionary martyrs that, when the country was liberated, their children should be raised and educated to become faithful servants of the people. Then he exhorted all the schoolchildren to prepare themselves well as energetic new cadres of a new Korea as their parents had wished. Everyone in the audience sobbed.

Now resting his hands quietly on his breast without thinking of wiping away his tears, and now raising his hand high towards the blue sky, the great leader kindled an undying revolutionary fire in the hearts of the martyrs' children who would shoulder the cause of our revolution in the future.

After the inauguration ceremony the fatherly leader reviewed the schoolchildren's parade and watched their athletic games and artistic performances. He inspected their

school rooms, hostels and recreation rooms.

“Comrades,” he said from time to time as he inspected these facilities. “Tell me whatever you need. Nothing should be stinted if it is for the benefit of you schoolchildren. You shall have whatever you need.”

The school teachers all felt a lump in their throats at the immeasurable affection that was conveyed in the words of the great leader who was talking as if he had not given them everything that they deserved. They were at a loss for words to reply to him.

After inspecting the school buildings, the great leader was walking to the hall where a banquet was to be given by the state to celebrate the inauguration, when he learned that the children who had neither parents nor relatives were gathered in a separate room. As he entered this room, the children in the room called him “father!” and burst into tears, throwing themselves into his arms.

“Don’t cry,” the fatherly leader said soothingly. “Why aren’t you eating? I am your father, am I not?”

He stroked their heads affectionately, mopped up their tears and escorted them to their seats.

Then he told them some comical and interesting stories to cheer them up. He did not leave them until he could see bright smiles on all their faces. Only then did he proceed to the banquet hall.

Before going to work the next morning, the respected leader said in a low voice:

“Yesterday I wept as I did for the first time in my life.

“When I began my speech, I saw the schoolchildren and recollected their parents. Then the tears streamed from my eyes in spite of myself.

“Those children really have had a miserable childhood!

“We must become their parents and take good care of

them so that they will take over where their parents left off.”

Even after the opening of the school, the great leader frequently found time out of his tight schedule to visit Mangyongdae and give meticulous guidance in the construction of the school buildings.

The construction of the new school buildings was completed in just over a year. On October 24, 1948, a grand ceremony for the completion of the new school buildings was held at Mangyongdae as a state function in the presence of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung.

He personally cut the ribbon to mark the completion. He said in a thick voice that he had only now implemented the wishes of the fallen comrades. Then he added, if the comrades who died fighting with us in the mountains were alive today and could see their children studying in this excellent school, how delighted they would be!

The children grew up to become the stalwart and dependable backbone of our revolutionary cadres.

10) THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MODERN REGULAR ARMY

If our liberated country was to be a completely independent, sovereign state, it was imperative to develop a modern regular army capable of defending the country and nation and protecting the revolutionary achievements. This was a particularly pressing issue in view of the occupation of south Korea by the US imperialists, the chief force of aggression and plunder.

Of course, it was not easy for our newly liberated country to raise a powerful regular army capable of countering the imperialist aggressive forces of the United

States which boasted of being the “strongest in the world”. We did not have many military and political cadres who were equipped with advanced military science and technology, nor were there adequate material and technical foundations for a regular army. On top of this, the enemies at home and abroad were laying obstacles in the path of our efforts to build up the armed forces. The US imperialists and their minions were doing everything in their power to obstruct the building of a new society and the development of a regular army in the north. The anti-Party, counterrevolutionary factionalists who had wormed their way into the Party opposed the building up of a regular army. “What is the use of an army when the country has not been reunified?” they argued. Those who worshipped the great powers voiced the objection that it was impossible to develop a regular army without foreign aid.

Nevertheless, the great leader went ahead steadily and methodically with the preparations for the organization of a modern regular army from the days immediately after liberation. In this work he drew on the rich experience he had gained in raising the revolutionary army during the anti-Japanese armed struggle. He relied on the revolutionary backbone which had been tempered and trained in the flames of the hard-fought battles against the Japanese and on the ardent patriotism of our people.

In developing a modern regular army, the great leader paid primary attention to the training of military and political cadres.

On February 23, 1946, the Pyongyang Institute was set up. It was a parent body to train the military and political cadres who were badly needed for the building of the Party, the country and the army. The inauguration of the Pyongyang Institute was followed by the establishment of the Central Security Officers School to train the military commanders of

the airforce and army, and by the opening of the Naval Security Officers School to train naval officers.

One of the greatest handicaps in organizing the training centres for the military officers of the different services was the lack of instructors with technical qualifications.

As a consequence of Japanese imperialist colonial rule, there were few people in our country who had acquired technical knowledge of aeronautics and navigation and few specialists in technical arms.

In order to solve this problem on our own, the great leader took measures to seek out the technicians and specialists in these fields who had been scattered in different parts of the country.

Among them were some who had been teaching at an aviation school during the days of Japanese imperialist rule and some technicians who had been working on Japanese merchant ships. Needless to say, their family backgrounds and past records were not flawless. Because of this, they were considered “pro-Japanese elements” by the factionalists and they themselves were ashamed of their records.

The great leader, however, believed firmly that, if they were educated and guided properly, they would work honestly for the country and the people and that they could be entrusted with the important duty of training the hard core of the regular armed services.

This was how the technical teaching staff for the officers’ schools for the different services was recruited.

The great leader paid close attention to the educational work of the military schools.

The factionalists who had been in the habit of worshipping great powers and of dogmatic practices sneaked into the military schools and effected a considerable degree of confusion in the educational work by arguing about a “Japanese

style” and so on. They attempted to copy foreign theories and experiences for our military schools, instead of studying the great leader’s valuable experience of building the revolutionary armed force during the anti-Japanese armed struggle and his military art. They were even using the translations of the words of command which had been used by the Japanese army.

If this state of affairs had been allowed to continue it would have been impossible to equip the cadets with a working knowledge suited to our situation. Nor would it have been possible to train military cadres capable of contributing to the Korean revolution.

In order to correct the situation, the great leader saw to it that an educational programme was drawn up centring on establishing Juche firmly by eliminating the worship of great powers and dogmatism from military education.

Under the energetic guidance of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, the backbone of the People’s Army became strengthened and this army developed into a powerful modern regular army equipped with modern weapons.

IV. ALL EFFORTS FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF THE DEMOCRATIC BASE AND THE REUNIFICATION AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE COUNTRY

1) THE SECOND CONGRESS OF THE WORKERS' PARTY OF NORTH KOREA

Entering the year, 1948, our Party and people were confronted with the important and historic tasks of consolidating the victory of the democratic reforms and pushing ahead with economic construction and, at the same time, of achieving the cause of the country's reunification by frustrating the American imperialists' plot to split our nation into two.

On the basis of his deep understanding of the prevailing situation at home and abroad and of the requirements of the revolution's development, the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung decided to convene a Party congress which would make clear the road our Party and people had to follow and made thorough preparations for it.

With the Party congress approaching, the Party Central Committee adopted a decision to ensure the high-level summing up of the work of the Party organizations and the election of their leading bodies and sent the members of its Political Committee out to the provinces.

The great leader himself made a tour of inspection of the

local Party organizations which were in session of their summing up.

He visited Kanggye County which is situated in a mountainous area in the north of the country. There he went to Sinmal Village, Anchang-dong, 32 kilometres from the county seat to give guidance to the work of the village Party cell.

On his way back to Pyongyang he dropped in at Tonggrim-ri, Choyang Sub-county, Kaechon County just to guide the work of the Yangcham Party cell. That day he also convened the sub-county Party committee to see how the Party cells that were active under its control were getting on with the tasks of summing up and of holding elections to their leading bodies. He also taught them how to write a report to be submitted to the sub-county Party conference. He left for Pyongyang late at night.

During his tour of local Party organizations at all levels he made himself fully acquainted with the actual situation of each Party organization, the political and practical qualifications of the Party members, the successes and shortcomings made in the work of Party construction and organizational guidance, and the problems to be solved for the strengthening and development of our Party.

Soon after that he directed the Party conference of Sunchon County, South Pyongan Province, and the Second Conference of South Hamgyong Province of the Workers' Party of North Korea.

While giving specific guidance to Party organizations from cell to provincial committee to make sure they carried out their summing-up meetings and elections properly, the great leader encouraged the entire people throughout the country to meet the Party congress in mood of high political enthusiasm and with brilliant labour achievements.

On the day when he guided the work of the Sinmal Party cell, he convened a meeting in the evening of activists of the political parties and social organizations in Kanggye County and made a speech: "What Should We Do and How Should We Work This Year?" In this speech he set out a militant programme for the New Year when the Party congress was to be held. On the day immediately after his guidance to the Party conference of Sunchon County, he got together the managers and technicians of the state-run enterprises and taught them how to develop the state-run industries and manage them. During his guidance to the Second Party Conference of South Hamgyong Province he visited the People's Factory of the Hungnam District, the Hungnam Port, and an artillery unit of the Korean People's Army to give encouragement to the industrial workers and the soldiers.

Under the vibrant circumstances in which the entire people of the country were out in the grand onward movement to meet the Second Party Congress with high political zeal and brilliant labour exploits, the summing up of the work and elections of the leading bodies of the Party organizations at all levels culminated in success.

Through this campaign the Party organizations reviewed all aspects of their work, gained experiences and lessons and built up the Party ranks to become stronger than ever both organizationally and ideologically. In particular, the qualitative composition of the Party leadership bodies was markedly improved.

Based on these preparations the Second Congress of the Workers' Party of North Korea was held on March 27, 1948, in the Pyongyang Theatre. It attracted considerable attention and aroused high expectations among our Party members and our people.

The congress listened to an historic report made by the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung.

In his report he gave a wide-ranging analysis of the changes that had taken place in the relations between the international political forces since the Second World War and the confrontation between the democratic and reactionary forces in the international arena. He summed up the successes and experiences gained in the struggle for the country's independent reunification and the strengthening of the revolutionary democratic base in the northern half of the country and in the struggle for consolidating our Party. He then clarified the tasks to be carried out by our Party and people.

On March 29, he delivered a concluding speech: "Every Effort for the Consolidation of the Democratic Base and the Reunification and Independence of the Country".

The Second Congress of the Workers' Party of North Korea marked an important turning-point for a new revolutionary change in the development of our revolution and of our Party.

2) THE APRIL JOINT CONFERENCE OF NORTH AND SOUTH

The Joint Conference of Representatives of Political Parties and Public Organizations in North and South Korea was held in April, 1948, in Pyongyang.

This joint conference was a significant and historic meeting at which representatives of political parties and public organizations from both north and south Korea sat down together and discussed the great event of the nation for

the first time since the country's liberation from the colonial rule of the Japanese imperialists.

At that time the situation was critical because the danger of territorial partition and national division was growing daily.

The US imperialists, who had appeared in south Korea in place of the Japanese imperialists in 1945, convened the "UN Little Assembly" in February, 1948, where they adopted an illegal decision to conduct separate elections in south Korea.

As their absurd plan to take control of the whole of Korea through an "election" under the supervision of the "UN Temporary Commission on Korea" had failed due to the unanimous rejection of our people, the US imperialists intended to set up a puppet regime in south Korea alone.

To permit this sinister scheme to take effect would be to allow a major barrier to be erected in the path of our partitioned country's progress towards reunification.

Faced with the tragedy of the nation's partition, none of the compatriots could repress their surging indignation.

At this critical moment the respected leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, out of his desire to dispel the dark clouds of national division and to indicate how a save-the-nation struggle should be carried out, called the 25th Meeting of the Central Committee of the Democratic National United Front of North Korea on March 9, 1948. At the meeting he elucidated once again the invariable stand of our Party to establish a united, democratic people's government and then initiated the convocation of the Joint Conference of Representatives of Political Parties and Public Organizations in North and South Korea. In view of the peculiarities of the historical development of our country and in view of the then acute situation it was by no means an easy task to open a meeting at which representatives from all parties, groups and

walks of life with different ideologies could get together and exchange their views on what could be done to save the nation. This was because the meeting aimed to embrace not only democratic parties and figures but the neutral forces and even the Right-wing forces with different political views, religious beliefs and ideologies.

At the time the internal situation of the political and public circles in south Korea was very complicated and discordant. Individuals even within the same party and the same organization, to say nothing of different parties and organizations, were lacking in understanding. Consequently their disputes led to antagonism and enmity and even on occasion to fist fights.

Some of them were conservative nationalists with their lifelong prejudices against communism. Others were dependent on foreign forces and trying to put themselves forward as a one-time “adviser” to the US military government office or the chairman of the “legislative council”.

People of this sort made many others anxious as to whether the discussion on the future of the country could proceed smoothly.

The great leader President Kim Il Sung, however, entertained no doubts about the success of the convocation of the north-south joint conference.

As a matter of fact, the prominent figures from all walks of life in south Korea had been greatly influenced by the strong protest of the people against the separate elections and by their resolute struggle for the country's reunification and independence.

It was the unanimous desire of the people in north and south Korea to live in a reunified country.

To say nothing of the conscientious democrats, even the political rivals who were advocating patriotism in word knew

that they had no other way to avail themselves of the desire of the people if they were to get support from the people.

They all had to a greater or lesser degree a national conscience. Moreover, their anti-communistic beliefs were greatly affected by our suggestion that the north-south joint conference be held.

Quite a number of people were still under the impression that communists were narrow-minded human beings who were blind to the destiny of the country and the nation and full of political ambition only to engage in sectarian strifes and reject the nationalists and democrats without any proper reason.

They could not but reconsider their opinion of the communists when they received our suggestion to get together for the sake of the future of the country and the nation, irrespective of their party affiliations, political views, religious beliefs and past services.

Such were the circumstances under which President Kim Il Sung initiated the opening of the north-south joint conference.

The 26th Meeting of the Central Committee of the Democratic National United Front of North Korea held on March 25, 1948, under the guidance of President Kim Il Sung proposed to the political parties and social organizations in south Korea the convocation of a north-south joint conference in April that year in Pyongyang. The announcement gained the full support of broad sections of people at home and abroad.

The progressive patriotic forces, the neutral forces, and even some Right-wing forces could not repress their excitement at finding a way out of their dilemma.

The political parties and social organizations in south Korea held closed cadres' meetings and issued statements and

adopted decisions in support of the north-south conference.

In its edition dated March 30, the *Chayu Sinmun* issued in Seoul at the time carried an article under the headline, "The Dawn to Disperse the Three-Year Dark Clouds of Our National Division". The article read: "This conference is the only alternative to meet the demand of the Korean nation. Accordingly, the whole of south Korea is filled with the desire and longing for its realization." It went on to describe this save-the-nation measure as "an expression of the pride and self-knowledge of a cultured nation with a 4,000-year history", and "a vigorous stride forward by the nation away from all flunkeyism towards and dependence upon outside forces", as a result of which "no one in the world can hold in check the righteous demand and aspiration of the nation, nor can any one at home undermine the nation's soaring spirits and strength of will".

As the significant moment when the representatives from the north and the south would meet drew near and the entire people were surging with deep emotion and excitement, President Kim Il Sung gave energetic guidance to the preparations for the successful convocation of the joint conference.

He prepared a report for the joint conference. At the same time he took care of every detail from the seating arrangements for the conference and the representatives' lodgings to the preparations for artistic performances, inspection tours and the issue of invitation cards.

As a result, the preparations for the conference were proceeding smoothly.

It was during this time that President Kim Il Sung called an official to him and said that we should meet the south Korean representatives with the warm feelings of compatriots, and pay attention to such details as having

suits, shoes, underwear and toilet sets ready for them as they were about to cross over the 38th parallel without full preparations, avoiding the eyes of the enemy and take every precaution to make their stay at the hotel as comfortable as possible.

At last the invitation cards were sent to all the patriotic representatives of political parties and social organizations and prominent individuals in both north and south Korea. The invitations to the south Korean delegates were sent either by personal messenger or by foreign post in view of the disruptions to normal services caused by the US imperialists and their stooges. The invitation cards were made of silk cover, the speciality of Korea. The words were inscribed in brush strokes permeated with the patriotic loyalty and ardent desire and expectations of the nation. When they were conveyed to the delegates in south Korea, a great sensation took place in south Korean political and public circles. The patriotic political parties and public organizations immediately elected their representatives to the joint conference and the individual figures who had received invitation cards were busy finding refuges for their families and preparing their travelling arrangements.

Meanwhile, some politicians of neutral and Right-wing organizations, who were sitting on the fence and had not yet made up their minds to attend, frequented the “Chukchom Mansion” in Sodaemun District, Seoul, where Mr. Kim Gu was living.

As for Mr. Kim Gu, he was well known as a would-be patriot who had fought the Japanese soldiers with a matchlock after the Tonghak Rebellion to “defend the fatherland and save the nation” and as a “leader” of the nation with a career as the head of the “Shanghai Provisional Government”. Moreover, he had travelled round many parts

of China and met a large number of showy communists, only to feel the bitterness of disillusion. Since then he had distinguished himself as a Right-wing leader with a determination never to associate with the communists again. He was the chieftain of a reactionary organization which slandered the policies of north Korea even after the country's liberation and let the terrorists and saboteurs commit crimes against us.

The attitude which Mr. Kim Gu would adopt towards the north-south joint conference was a matter of great concern to the neutral and Right-wing statesmen who had dubious life histories.

Mr. Kim Gu's immediate reaction on receiving his invitation card came, however, as a great surprise to most of them.

When he saw the name of President Kim Il Sung written on the card and a letter declaring that, if any person who had once committed crimes against the nation was now resolved to fight in a patriotic way, he would not be asked about his past and would advance shoulder to shoulder with his fellows, Mr. Kim Gu could not repress his deep emotion. He said to himself: "Now the save-the-nation path is open wide. From what I have heard, there is no doubt that he is one of the great men of all time and a peerless patriot!"

It was Mr. Kim Gu who felt reverence for General Kim Il Sung who was well known as a distinguished youthful leader of the Korean national-liberation movement and as a brilliant commander of the anti-Japanese armed struggle when he had led the million strong Japanese army by the nose. In the days when he was in Shanghai, therefore, he had sent his liaison man to the General to obtain his teachings, but for some reason this had been a vain attempt.

The eyes of Mr. Kim Gu who was now 70 were wet with tears.

Expressing his determination to meet President Kim Il Sung and obtain his teachings, he said: "Some people are in fear of the old saying 'Come empty, return empty' but a great hope is seen for our future. If there's any way I can contribute to the national reunification, I'm willing to fall down dead on the 38th parallel."

This feeling was not confined to Mr. Kim Gu alone. It was the feeling of all the neutral and Right-wing figures who were concerned about the future of the country and the nation.

However, the delegates' journey north from south Korea was not a smooth one.

The US imperialists and the traitorous Syngman Rhee clique did their best to change the minds of the south Korean delegates whose thoughts were leaning towards Pyongyang. They fed them foul rumours that terrorists were lying in ambush along the 38th parallel and that they would be arrested in the north and never be allowed to return home again. Nevertheless, no one gave up his intention to participate in the joint conference. The US occupationists then resorted to issuing an "order" stipulating the conditions that the participants should observe. The "order" stated that those who were going to go to take part in the joint conference would have to complete an "application form" and submit photographs of themselves and, when they returned home, they would each without exception have to make a "full report".

Their fundamental aim was to enlist the participants of the joint conference onto their side and prevent them from attending the meeting under any pretext. Their "order" also contained an element of intimidation. The enemy's schemes did not end here. They went to the length of surrounding the houses of those who wanted to attend the meeting and put them under surveillance watching for a chance to assassinate

the stubborn figures who would not heed the warning. However, no matter how hard they might try to restrain them, they could not dissuade the south Korean delegates from making their way north.

At last the delegates set off for Pyongyang from all parts of south Korea.

President Kim Il Sung sent many officials to the area along the 38th parallel to guide the south Korean delegates who were going to cross in defiance of the strict guard of the US occupationists and the domestic reactionaries.

Mr. Kang Ryang Uk was one of the guides who went to the 38th parallel to greet the south Korean delegates.

The delegates from south Korea came to the north by different routes. An influential Right-wing leader led the delegates of his organization and his suite consisting of a secretary, a medical officer, journalists and other attendants in a group and the individual delegates barely managed to come over to the north escaping from the enemy's persistent pursuit.

The faces of the south Korean delegates were bright with delight once they found themselves on our side although sometimes they assumed a cautious attitude.

This happened when a group led by a Right-wing figure came over the 38th parallel. When they drew near to our side's sentry box they came to a standstill and hesitated for some time to call out a greeting. Presently one of them stepped forward towards us and shouted unexpectedly in a foreign language, "Comrades!"

When they heard this our guides could not help bursting into laughter. This showed that the US imperialists and their stooges were giving a totally false impression to the south Koreans about the realities of the north.

The group members could not contain their joy when our

powerfully built guards, not foreign soldiers, greeted them and our kind guides, not terrorists, shook them warmly by the hand. Their hearts were deeply moved by this first impression. During their stay at the rest houses, the south Korean delegates were able to find out the truth about the actual situation in the northern half of the country. They were genuinely moved by the warm brotherly love shown by our side and they acquired a new understanding of the north.

As the opening date for the conference drew near and most of the delegates from south Korea came over, they were guided to Pyongyang. When he heard that the south Korean delegates had arrived but that some had failed to arrive in time, President Kim Il Sung set the opening date as April 19, 5 days later than originally scheduled. The absence of a few delegates was no obstacle to declaring the meeting open and, besides there was no guarantee that they would eventually turn up. However, the President postponed the opening date in the hope that even one more delegate would be able to attend the meeting.

As a result, almost all the south Korean delegates were able to take part in the meeting.

The Joint Conference of Representatives of Political Parties and Public Organizations in North and South Korea was thus opened amid the great expectations and concern of all the Koreans and the progressive people of the world on April 19, 1948, at the Moranbong Theatre in Pyongyang.

Present at the conference were 695 representatives from 56 political parties and public organizations with more than 10 million party and organization members in north and south Korea. Also present there were the representatives of the overseas compatriots.

This meeting of communists and nationalists was an unprecedented national event. It involved all the patriotic and

democratic forces in the north and the south with the sole aim of the country's reunification, transcending the differences in their political views and religious beliefs. Therefore, the meeting was held in an atmosphere of perfect harmony from the start.

At 6 p.m. the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung entered the conference hall, accompanied by the heads of the delegations.

When the conference hall became quiet, the oldest delegate, Mr. Kim Wol Song who had come from south Korea, declared the conference open. Then all the participants suggested that President Kim Il Sung take the platform out of their great respect for him.

Prior to the discussion of the main items on the agenda he called a recess for a day during which he saw to it that the representatives made a tour of the factories, enterprises, countryside and schools in Pyongyang and its environs. This measure was taken because he had received a report that Mr. Kim Gu and his suite had at last belatedly arrived.

The second-day session opened on April 21, when President Kim Il Sung delivered a report on "The Political Situation in North Korea".

In this historic report he analysed the great significance of the joint conference and the political situation of the country in detail. He scathingly exposed and denounced the US imperialists' policy of splitting our nation and the so-called "May 10 separate elections". He called on the entire people to come out in the nationwide struggle to establish a united central government on the independent and democratic principle through the concerted efforts of the patriotic forces in the north and the south. He said:

"It is the greatest political task now confronting our

nation to reject and thwart the treacherous elections hatched against the people in south Korea.

“Anyone who truly loves the country should categorically reject treacherous separate elections. In this nationwide struggle all people who are concerned about the fate of the country and the nation must unite, irrespective of party affiliation, religious denomination and political view.

“Unity alone can guarantee our victory.”

The participants gave the report their full support as it elucidated the task of overcoming the crisis of national division and of saving the country and the nation.

At the critical moment when our country of the same mountain range has been cut into two and our nation of one and the same blood is to be divided for ever, how can we take party affiliation and religious denomination into account and regard differences in political views as a wall? Even though there may be differences in ideology and ideals, those who truly love the country must unite and fight for the noble cause of the country's reunification, transcending all personal considerations.

President Kim Il Sung sowed this truth in the hearts of all the participants.

The report was followed by speeches from many representatives of political parties and of social organizations of workers, peasants, youth, women, scientists, artists and men of religion.

On the 22nd Mr. Kim Gu took the floor.

In all his previous speeches he had never deviated from his principles and fervently asserted all that he knew about “true patriotism”, ignoring the views of others.

That day, however, his speech was unexpectedly very brief. He did not pretend to know much as he had in the past nor did he comport himself like a “leader”.

He expressed his sincere thanks to the President for having invited him and his suite to the joint conference and his resolve to do his bit to put into effect the policies set forth by the President.

It seemed that he was obviously repenting of his turbulent past. With high hopes that he would save the country and the nation he used to wander about abroad and always stood by his opinion before the nation. Now he realized how absurd and reckless all his rash efforts and blind behaviour had been.

The meeting adopted the “Decision on the Political Situation in Korea” which reflected fully the idea of the report.

The meeting organized the national committee against the separate elections in south Korea and adopted a written appeal to all Korean compatriots to come out in the save-the-nation struggle.

The April north-south joint conference closed on the 23rd after taking measures to wage a nationwide struggle to resolve the crisis of national division.

The north-south joint conference was an historic meeting which united the patriotic, democratic forces of Korea under the banner of the country’s reunification, transcending differences in political views and religious beliefs.

3) HISTORIC BIRTH OF JUCHE KOREA

Running up against the unanimous opposition and rejection by the entire Korean people, the US imperialists finally resorted to holding forcibly the separate elections and framed up the “national assembly” in south Korea. They then worked hard to rig up a puppet government.

At this critical moment of choice—reunification or division, independence or colonial enslavement—the only path for our people to follow was to found a united central government, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, without delay.

It was only when the DPRK was founded that the entire people of north and south Korea could thwart the moves of the US imperialists and their henchmen to forge a separate government through their concerted efforts under the banner of the Republic. Moreover, the emergence of the Republic could eloquently prove that no matter what “government” the enemy might set up it was nothing but an illegal and reactionary “regime” which was incapable of representing the desires and aspirations of the Korean people. The establishment of the DPRK also made it possible for our people's power which originally assumed a regional character to develop into an all-Korea government, ensure a uniform development of the country and possess its full structure as a sovereign and independent state which could exercise the equality and sovereignty of our nation in the international arena.

Taking into full consideration the urgent demand of our developing revolution and the real possibilities for the founding of the Republic, the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung stepped up the preparations for its foundation.

First of all, he took a revolutionary measure to create the Constitution of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The enforcement of the constitution made it possible to legally consolidate the successes achieved in the democratic reforms and the building of the national economy and culture in the northern half of the country; to lay a solid political and economic foundation of a republic to be founded in the future; and to conduct the struggle to set up an all-Korea

supreme legislative organ and a central government quickly and purposefully under a lawful guarantee.

That is why the great leader guided the work of drafting the Republic's constitution.

Comrade Kang Ryang Uk was one of the members of the committee formed to draft the constitution.

Under the meticulous guidance of the great leader the Constitution of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was worked out in a matter of one month. He then organized sub-committees for the further discussion of the draft constitution and after that threw it open to discussion by all the people.

Public discussion of the draft constitution was conducted for over 70 days throughout the north and south of Korea but the result was that the people gave it their full support in its original form.

On the basis of this support a special meeting of the People's Assembly of North Korea held in April 1948 decided to pass the draft constitution of the Republic without amendment on the assumption that it would be accepted by a supreme legislative body to be formed soon.

A ceremony to hoist the national flag was conducted for the first time in history by the decision on the enforcement of the Constitution of the DPRK.

As was the case with every item of the constitution, the designs of the national flag and emblem were also worked out successfully thanks to the superb wisdom and meticulous guidance of the great leader.

In fact, their designs were still under discussion although several weeks had elapsed since the special meeting of the People's Assembly of North Korea had adopted the constitution.

This was due to the tenacious obstructive moves of the

anti-Party and counterrevolutionary factionalists. They rejected the popular and revolutionary character of the Republic that was to be founded and plotted to reflect their vicious aim even in the national flag and emblem. They maintained that “Korea’s peculiarity” could be expressed by drawing a plough, an old farm implement, in the circle of the national flag and by describing the national emblem with a picture of the Kyongbok Palace, a one-time feudal royal palace, in the round form of an aged copper-framed mirror.

Nearly everyone said that their proposal was unjust, but a new alternative initiative did not occur to us for several days. Just then the great leader happened to see the design for the national flag and commented to this effect:

“The national flag contains too much white and blue. Its main colour should be red, which symbolizes the blood shed by the fighters for the freedom and independence of the country and our revolutionary forces firmly rallied behind the Party. But, making the whole of the flag red does not fit in well with the actual situation of our country. The white part, expressing a single nation with a history and brilliant culture dating back thousands of years should be thinner and clearer than in this design and the blue part, too, which symbolizes the mettle of the Korean people who are fighting for socialism and communism in unity with the revolutionary people of the world and the sovereignty of the Republic should be thinner. It would be good to lead a white circle towards the pole, not in the centre like this, and to draw a five-pointed red star symbolizing the victory of the future within the white circle. The five-pointed star should also be drawn in the upper part of the design of the national emblem.”

After that the great leader saw to it that the design of the national emblem of the Republic should bear a power station showing the prospects of our rich, strong and resourceful

country where the electricity supply would be extended to all parts of the country.

This was how the designs for the national flag and the emblem of the DPRK came into being.

On the basis of the Constitution of the Republic, the great leader pushed ahead with preparations for the elections of deputies to the Supreme People's Assembly (SPA) so as to set up an all-Korea supreme legislative body and a central government.

The elections of deputies to the SPA was a gargantuan campaign. It involved the entire people of the north and south of Korea and a lot of very hard work accompanied by the serious struggle with the US imperialists, their stooges and all sorts of class enemies who were opposing the foundation of the Republic.

The great leader could see that enhancing the role of the Party organizations would provide the basic guarantee for the successful accomplishment of this arduous and mammoth task. Therefore he convened the Second Congress of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of North Korea in July, 1948. At the meeting he gave instructions for the organizational and ideological unity of our Party to be strengthened still further with the elections of deputies to the SPA ahead and that the elections should be closely linked with the fulfilment of the national economic plan for 1948. He also instructed that revolutionary vigilance should be further increased so as to frustrate any subversive activities or acts of sabotage our enemies might direct against the foundation of the Republic.

As the role of the Party organizations at all levels was being enhanced, the preparations for the elections of deputies to the SPA went ahead smoothly and constituencies and sub-

constituencies were organized for the speedy registration of voters.

In north Korea where the popular masses were legally provided with full democratic rights and freedoms thanks to the establishment of the Constitution of the Republic, voters held public meetings to nominate freely 212 candidates from all walks of life, political parties, and social organizations to become SPA deputies.

But, due to the fascist rule of the US imperialists and their stooges, the people in south Korea could not nominate candidates freely through open meetings.

Under these circumstances the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung ensured that a two tier method of nomination was employed in south Korea. In other words, he took the measure where the voters should first nominate the people's representatives secretly through the collection of their signatures and then the nominated representatives should come over to north Korea and elect deputies to the SPA through their conference.

Crushing all sorts of obstructive moves by the US imperialists and their stooges, the south Korean people nominated 1,080 people's representatives through the signature of 6,732,400 voters as of August 20 and the people's representatives met in Haeju in the northern half to elect 360 deputies to the SPA.

As a result, the historic north-south general election held on August 25, 1948, culminated in a brilliant victory.

The victorious election made it possible to establish the Supreme People's Assembly, a unified supreme legislative body throughout Korea, which was the first of its kind in the history of our nation.

The great leader convened the First Session of the SPA of the DPRK on September 2, 1948.

The session discussed and adopted with unanimous approval the Constitution of the DPRK which had obtained the full support of the whole nation through public discussion. And it elected the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly in the form of a standing organization of an all-Korea supreme legislative body.

In accordance with the unanimous will and desire of all the people of Korea, the session elected the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung Premier of the Cabinet of the DPRK, the Head of State.

With the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung occupying the highest position of the state, a promising future could be expected for the prosperity of the country and the eternal happiness of our people.

On September 9, 1948, Comrade Kim Il Sung proclaimed the founding of the DPRK, our glorious fatherland, to the whole world.

It was an epoch-making event without precedent in the 5,000-year history of our nation.

4) A NEW WORK ATTITUDE

Our people embarked on the implementation of the Two-Year National Economic Plan from the year, 1949.

This plan, the first of its kind in the history of our country, envisaged a high rate of growth in economic development.

It was not an easy task for our country, barely three years after liberation, to completely rehabilitate the severely damaged factories and enterprises, eliminate the colonial economic imbalances, carry out the technical reconstruction,

and lay the foundations for the independent national economy in the coming two years by developing all sectors of the national economy at such a high rate.

Many problems arose that had to be solved for the successful fulfilment of this arduous and huge-scale plan. One of the most important things was to improve guidance in the sphere of economic affairs.

At that time conditions for economic development were changed and new possibilities opened up as a result of the successful completion of the democratic reforms and the rapid economic rehabilitation.

For instance, the manpower problem. Before liberation many workers and peasants, unable to find employment and haunted by penury and starvation, loitered about in search of a job. But things became different after liberation.

As the life of the peasants was stabilized with the growth in agricultural production after the agrarian reform, the spontaneous flow of labour from the countryside into the towns became sporadic; as the Law on Nationalization of Industries and the Labour Law were enforced and industry was reconstructed, there were no unemployed people to be found anywhere, even in the city.

In order to develop the national economy rapidly under these new circumstances, guidance in the sphere of economic affairs needed to be strengthened and the officials' work attitudes and methods of guidance improved without delay in conformity with the new situation. This was more urgent in the industrial sector where the key establishments were nationalized.

At that time, however, quite a few Party organizations were guiding economic affairs in as administrative a way as ever, while some administrative and economic officials were trying to deal with the workers by shouting at them just like

the bureaucrats or factory-owners in the days of the Japanese imperialist rule, instead of arousing their voluntary zeal to ensure high productivity.

These outdated work attitudes and methods of guidance were numbing the political zeal and creative activity of the working class and were an obstacle to boosting production.

Grasping that herein lay the main knot to be untangled for the rapid promotion of the national economy and the successful implementation of the Two-Year National Economic Plan, the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung tried to attend to this work personally.

When the implementation of the economic plan for the first half of the year, 1949, the first year of the Two-Year Plan, was reviewed, it was apparent that in the implementation of the increased production plans assigned to all factories and enterprises the results were very disappointing considering the high zeal of the workers. To make matters worse, the coal mining and metallurgical industries were lagging well behind their targets for increased production.

The same was the case with the Hwanghae Iron Works.

This works, which had sole responsibility for the country's pig iron production, was playing a very important role in developing the industry of our country and the national economy as a whole.

Nevertheless, production in the works was not operating on a normal footing, and consequently the works was failing to fulfil its plan quota. A large reinforcement of manpower was introduced as was required, but more than half returned to their native places after only three days' work.

Many officials, including those in the Ministry of Industry, held discussions concerning this matter, but they were at a loss to find the reason and ended up not taking any measures.

The great leader was aware of this situation. He said that the senior officials were evidently lacking in competence, and he himself went to the iron works.

He arrived at the works in the afternoon of August 24, 1949. He first looked round the works to get a correct understanding of the real state of production.

All the production shops such as the steel, the semi-steel, and the heavy-plate shop were behind their plan quota.

He did not reproach the workers, however. Instead he gave them positive encouragement to achieve a new upsurge in production.

As he observed with satisfaction the molten iron flowing down from the blast furnace, he was highly appreciative of the smelters for their successful tapping operation.

With a radiant smile on his face, he said:

“Comrade Manager. These men are most praiseworthy to have built such a big blast furnace by themselves. They are heroes and a precious treasure of the country.”

The great leader was also anxious about the erratic production of iron, but he was giving strength, belief and conviction to the men by praising them for the construction of the furnace which had been accomplished two years previously, so as not to dampen their morale.

When he had acquainted himself with the production sites in detail, he had a talk with the officials of the works and asked the chief engineer why the production target was not being met. He replied that it was because the senior officials of the works did not organize the work well. On hearing this, the great leader said: Being told that you were short of manpower, I sent 700 men here from mountain villages. But because of your indifference to their life, over 400 of them left for their homes again. He also severely criticized the manager for his irresponsible style of work and said that such practices

must be known to the factory Party committee in time and rectified through strict criticism.

The following morning he visited the residential quarter, accompanied by the chairman of the Songnim City Party Committee. The first house he called at was that of a couple who were both working at the iron works.

He entered the house without ceremony and proceeded to feel the floor of the room with his hand and to examine the furniture. In the kitchen he lifted the lids of a cook-pot and a jar for keeping bean paste and had a look inside a cupboard to see what it contained. He asked the couple: if the supply of subsidiary food was adequate and how much were their monthly wages and monthly expenditure on non-staple foodstuffs and on school stationary for their children.

When they replied that they still had some money left over after paying for the foodstuffs and stationary, he was relieved and started towards the next door.

When he was informed that the next-door housewife was staying at home without any job, he told the chairman of the city Party committee that it would be a good idea if young couples could go to work together. He gave instructions that the city Party committee should provide the housewives with equal work opportunities to the men's.

Then he asked the housewife if she had any problem in her life.

After a brief hesitation, she answered frankly that she had no problem except the infrequency of filmshows and baths.

He told the Party chairman that if one is to serve the citizens, one must ensure good facilities and living conditions for them. He went on to state emphatically that many cultural and public service establishments should be constructed for the industrial workers and their families so that they could have a bath or see a film when necessary.

In the course of grasping the realities while looking round the works and the dwelling houses, the great leader came to realize that the poor management of the Hwanghae Iron Works was partly due to the work attitude of the city Party committee and the city people's committee. That morning he again met the senior officials of Songnim City and told them to give the working people of the Hwanghae Iron Works a better service.

He spoke to this effect:

"All the citizens of Songnim are families of the workers of the Hwanghae Iron Works. Therefore, you should build their houses without delay after discussing the matter with the manager of the works.

"The number of food supply stations, bath-houses, barber's shops, nurseries and kindergartens must be increased as soon as possible for the convenience of the citizens.

"Songnim City must secure vegetable plots around its outskirts and keep up the supply of vegetables to the workers at the works."

That day the great leader met the senior officials and model workers of the works. He told them that the reasons why productivity at the works had been unsatisfactory were that a proper managerial system had not been established yet, there was a lack of rules and order, the Party, administrative and working people's organizations had not channelled all their efforts towards production, and that the bureaucratic method of working was still being tolerated in the management of the enterprise. He went on to say that the most important thing was to improve the method and style of work of the senior officials.

The great leader went on to give on-the-spot guidance to the Ryongsong Machine Plant and the Hungnam Fertilizer Factory. In the course of this, he confirmed that the work

attitudes and methods of officials needed improvement and their working standards should be raised generally if the Two-Year National Economic Plan was to be successfully fulfilled. He saw to it that guidance groups from the Party Central Committee were dispatched to the Hwanghae Iron Works and other important factories and enterprises immediately, while at the same time, conferences of activists in the different sectors of the national economy were held.

The historic speech, "New Circumstances and Conditions Demand a New Work Attitude", delivered by Comrade Kim Il Sung at the Conference of Economic and Trade Union Activists from the Industrial Field was then of great importance.

In the speech he was very critical of some officials of factories and enterprises for persisting in outdated work methods, taking the Hwanghae Iron Works as an example. He urged them to improve labour administration radically, to organize the distribution of manpower properly and introduce the piecework system widely, to provide convenient working and living conditions for the factory workers, to establish rigid order and discipline, to show a high sense of responsibility for the production, to raise levels of skill and technique, and to take good care of and economize in the state's property in all factories and enterprises under the new circumstances and the given conditions.

The great leader not only explained in detail the ways in which the officials could improve their work attitudes and methods. He also taught them through practical examples how to conduct their political work, organize the labour force and run their enterprises so as to accomplish the Two-Year Economic Plan successfully.

He also took steps to set up an educational institution under the direct authority of the Cabinet so as to give

education to the ministers, vice-ministers, directors and vice-directors of the bureaux under the direct control of the Cabinet, chairmen of the provincial people's committees and of the social organizations in an attempt to improve both their political and theoretical qualifications and economic and technical knowhow.

As a result, a marked improvement in the officials' work attitudes and methods was effected and a proper system of guiding the national economy was established. In consequence the working people were able to display their zest and creative zeal to great effect and great strides were made in the industrial sectors.

5) INITIATIVES FOR THE INDEPENDENT AND PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION

The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung exerted his sincere and persevering efforts for the country's independent and peaceful reunification, thwarting every move by the US imperialists and their stooges to provoke another war in Korea.

The US imperialists reinforced their troops of aggression on a large scale in south Korea and instigated their puppet clique to commit an armed provocation against the northern half of the Republic, clamouring that the "northward expedition is a central task in the US policy towards Korea".

The reckless bouts of shooting by the US imperialists and their stooges, which started from around 1947-48, gradually entered an adventurist phase towards the ignition of an all-out war.

In 1949 alone, they made 2,617 incursions into our area north of the 38th parallel.

Not a day passed without the report of gun shots around the 38th parallel. Our country was virtually in a state of war already.

Such imprudent war provocations made all the people indignant at the US imperialists and their henchmen.

On all such occasions, however, the great leader taught that Korea should be reunified by peaceful means, without resorting to a fratricidal war, from the viewpoint of our national interest and the noble mission of the communists who struggle for the genuine freedom and happiness of the people.

He made many practical proposals for the country's peaceful reunification, not by a fratricidal war, but through the concerted efforts of the Korean people in the north and the south, while directing due attention to the strengthening of the defence system along the 38th parallel.

On June 25, 1949, an inaugural meeting to form the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland (DFRF) was held in Pyongyang, with the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung in the chair.

Present at the meeting were more than 700 delegates from 72 political parties and social organizations of the north and the south.

The DFRF, a reflection of the unanimous will of the representatives, adopted a declaration which clarified the way in which the country could be reunified peacefully as soon as possible.

The declaration proposed that a supreme legislative organ for the whole of Korea should be set up through a north-south general election without any foreign interference and that a state system should be established by the people themselves. To this end, it urged the US imperialists and the south Korean puppet clique to dissolve the "UN Commission on Korea",

withdraw the US troops from south Korea and ensure free activities for all democratic political parties and social organizations.

Our people turned out in the nationwide struggle to translate the peaceful reunification proposal into reality.

However, our people's struggle was confronted by tremendous obstacles that were erected through the desperate efforts of the US imperialists and their stooges.

The US imperialists and their stooges were alarmed by the fact that voices were being raised among both the north and south Korean people in demand of the peaceful reunification of the country and that the struggle against the fratricidal war was being intensified. They therefore ruthlessly suppressed all the patriotic democratic forces in south Korea.

They forcibly dissolved 132 political parties and social organizations in south Korea from September to October in 1949.

Under the pretext that they should "mop up" the people's guerrillas, they did their best to suppress and slaughter the innocent people so as to undermine the morale of the south Korean people in their struggle for peaceful reunification.

They classified the south of Korea into five "punitive" zones in the autumn of 1949. In each zone they set up a "punitive command". They established the "general punitive headquarters" in Taejon, which was under the command of the US Military Advisory Group. They mobilized the military and the police and even a special task force for their "punitive operation". Robert, Head of the US Military Advisory Group, who commanded the "punitive operation", gave the order that all possible ways and means including massacre, mass incendiary fire, and residents' banishment should be employed and all mountain villages should be set on fire without exception.

The more successfully the revolution and construction in the northern half of Korea were promoted, the louder the voices of the people who aspired after the independent and peaceful reunification were raised. And the deeper the political and economic crisis in south Korea became, the more isolated from the people the enemy became. As this situation was developing, they were noisily clamouring about a “northward expedition” and engaging in ever more frequent armed provocations along the 38th parallel.

The war manoeuvres of the US imperialists and the traitorous Syngman Rhee puppet clique reached their peak at the beginning of 1950.

The US imperialists placed the south Korean puppet army under their control and prepared their massive armed forces along the 38th parallel for a sudden assault on the north, while increasing their military “aid” to south Korea.

Meanwhile, the US imperialists set up the “US Forces Far East Command” with MacArthur as its commander-in-chief and placed the US army and naval forces in Northeast Asia under its control.

MacArthur summoned Syngman Rhee and the Chief of the General Staff of the puppet army to Tokyo on February 17, 1950, and issued them with the “eleven-point instructions” for an attack on north Korea.

On the basis of all preparations, the US imperialists and the Syngman Rhee puppet army made ceaseless, large-scale attacks against the northern half in such areas as Kaesong, Mt. Songak, the Ongjin peninsula, Yangyang in Kangwon Province and other places.

This was the response of the US imperialists and their stooges to our new peaceful reunification proposal.

Due to the enemy’s frantic moves our country was in a touch-and-go situation, hovering on the brink of war.

The great leader, without any vacillation in this extremely critical situation, vigorously led our Party and people in the struggle for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

To cope with the prevailing situation, he saw to it that the People's Army and all the people prepared themselves for any sudden attack by the enemy and that more positive measures were taken to reunify the country peacefully instead of by means of war.

On June 7, 1950, the Central Committee of the DFRF issued an appeal proposing a general election in the north and the south so as to reunify the country peacefully on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the August 15 liberation.

With 300 copies of this appeal three persons were sent to the Ryohyon Railway Station adjacent to the 38th parallel on a mission to convey them to the political parties, social organizations, and prominent individuals of south Korea and to the "UN Commission on Korea".

But the enemy arrested them when they arrived at a point one kilometre south of the 38th parallel. This was not all that the US imperialists and their henchmen did to hinder the independent and peaceful reunification and ignite a war of aggression. They arrested, imprisoned and murdered people, merely for expressing a wish for peaceful reunification and proclaimed "a state of quasi-emergency martial law" throughout south Korea.

On June 17, Dulles, a notorious warmonger, came to south Korea as a special envoy of US President Truman. On his arrival he held a closed-door war consultation with generals of the puppet army and on June 18 he inspected the front line along the 38th parallel, accompanied by the minister of national defence of south Korea and the brass hats of the "US Military Advisory Group". Then he made the final check-up in the trench of the 38th parallel on the operational plan to "invade the north".

On June 19, he showed up in person in the “National Assembly” to stress the necessity of war and promised that the United States would support the south Korean puppets to the hilt in the event of war.

On the same day, US Secretary of Defence Johnson, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Bradley, and Commander-in-Chief of the US Forces in the Far East MacArthur held a secret discussion about provoking the war.

That a Korean war was impending was known as an established fact. The only point in question was when it would start—today or tomorrow.

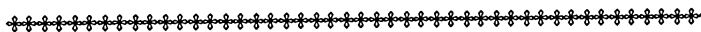
The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, even at this moment, showed the utmost patience and made a more flexible new proposal for peaceful reunification.

As he realized that the south Korean puppets, who were totally isolated from the entire Korean people, feared a general election, he had the Supreme People’s Assembly of our Republic propose that peaceful reunification be achieved by merging the legislative organ in the north with its counterpart in the south instead of by a general election.

But the US imperialist warmaniacs and their henchmen, the Syngman Rhee puppet clique, rejected even this proposal and finally launched the criminal war of aggression against the DPRK.

This was the response the US imperialists and the Syngman Rhee puppet clique made to our good intentions and the persevering efforts made by our people for independent and peaceful reunification.

Hence, the peaceful construction in the northern half of the country was suspended and our people turned out in the righteous Fatherland Liberation War to smite and annihilate the US imperialist aggressors who boasted of being “the strongest” in the world.



V. A COUNTEROFFENSIVE TO CRUSH THE US INVADERS

1) “THE AMERICANS HAVE MISJUDGED THE KOREANS”

The US imperialists, after making preparations for war for a long time, were resorting to ceaseless provocations. On June 25, 1950, at their instigation the forces of the Syngman Rhee puppet clique launched a surprise attack to invade the northern half of the Republic.

It was Sunday. Everyone of our working people must have been looking forward to a pleasant day of leisure in the early summer. That day our people were still in their beds when the cracking of enemy rifles and the roar of enemy artillery all along the 38th parallel instantaneously deprived them of their happy lives.

The marauding enemy were encroaching deeper into our territory above the 38th parallel. In spite of the warning from the Government of our Republic that they should cease their reckless invasion at once, the enemy were spreading the flames of war over a wide area.

Our people, who had been making the history of creation and construction on the soil of their liberated country, were now subjected to a bitter trial. All the people throughout the country watched the developments in tension and suspense.

As the front-line situation grew more threatening by the

minute and their apprehension mounted, our people's minds turned to the great leader. This was because they believed and expected that the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, the ever-victorious, iron-willed, brilliant commander, alone would take the wisest measures to cope with the emergency.

At this critical moment, an extraordinary meeting of the Cabinet was held in the government building of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The atmosphere in the conference hall was oppressive. The members of the Cabinet were waiting tensely for the great leader to turn up at the conference hall.

All at once they heard his sonorous voice from the corridor.

"They are stupid, indeed. The Americans have misjudged the Koreans." Presently, he came into the conference hall and took his seat on the platform. With his usual confident expression on his face, he looked around at the people who were present, and then said:

"The Americans look down on us. As the saying goes, wolves must be ruled over with a stick. Those who look down on us must be shown what the Koreans are made of."

His perfect imperturbability in the face of large forces of attacking enemy almost within hailing distance, and his words that overflowed with confident audacity and iron will dispelled all apprehension and irritation from the minds of the Cabinet members and inspired them with confidence in victory.

In fact, the US imperialists were the ringleaders of aggression who were intimidating the world by means of the myth of their "great strength".

Since the time when they exterminated the American Indians and set up the "United States of America" on the blood-soaked land, these marauders had fought as many as

114 brutal wars in a period of less than two centuries and boasted that they had never yet suffered a defeat. They were indeed a powerful enemy.

In the war between our young country and the imperialist United States, which had grown wild and fat on the plunder of numerous wars of aggression, the odds seemed too heavily stacked against us.

Hearing the press reports on the outbreak of the war in Korea, many people around the world believed the bragging of the US imperialists. They predicted that the outcome of the war was a “foregone conclusion”. They did so not without reason.

Nevertheless, the great leader made a firm decision to seize the bull by the horns and show him the mettle of the Koreans.

The Cabinet, feeling relieved, listened to every word he had to say.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung made an historic speech “Let Us Wipe Out the Invaders by a Decisive Counter-offensive”. In this speech, he said:

“Now that the puppet Syngman Rhee’s clique has triggered off a civil war, we can never leave them alone. If we hesitate to fight at this critical moment, our people will again be unable to avoid the lot of being homeless. We must resolutely fight the enemy in order to safeguard the independence of the motherland and the freedom and honour of the nation. We will counter the barbarous aggressive war of the enemy with the righteous war of liberation.

“Our People’s Army should frustrate the enemy offensive, launch a decisive counteroffensive without delay and annihilate the invaders.”

In his speech, the great leader made clear the justice of the war our people were to fight, and set the tasks for the People’s Army, the Party and state bodies and the economic organi-

zations. His speech heralded the doom of the US imperialist aggressors who provoked the war in order to swallow up the whole of Korea; it was the first roar of the guns of the Korean people that put an end to the “victorious history” of the US imperialists and pushed them onto the path of decline.

As early as the 1930’s the great leader had gained renown as a young general of exceptional intelligence and courage who had overwhelmed and defeated the one-million-strong army of the Japanese imperialists at every battle. Under his leadership, our people were firmly convinced that they would be able to destroy the US imperialist aggressors, no matter how brutal these invaders were.

On his orders to counterattack the enemy, the People’s Army formed strong attacking forces and immediately went on the counteroffensive.

The courageous People’s Army units frustrated the attacking enemy that had penetrated one to two kilometres north of the 38th parallel. They destroyed his forces and swept southward like surging waves.

The enemy, who had bragged that they would eat breakfast at Haeju, lunch at Pyongyang and supper at Sinuiju, were terrified at the powerful counterattack of our People’s Army and began to flee.

The enemy’s wild dream of swallowing up the whole of Korea at one gulp by a “blitz” was shattered at the outset.

The US imperialist aggressors used the tactic of surprise in provoking the war.

History shows that imperialist aggressors have always used this underhand trick when invading other countries.

The well known war maniacs, Hitler and Tojo, employed this method only to be destroyed and the US imperialists followed suit in their war of aggression against our country.

On the night of June 24, on the eve of the outbreak of the

war, the puppet army troops were in combat readiness. They had received orders from their American boss to “launch an all-out attack at five o’clock on the morning of June 25”. Now they were waiting in their positions south of the 38th parallel for the signal to attack. Their guns were all aiming at the north, and their aircraft were ready to fly sorties.

At this hour a ball was given in the officers’ club at the puppet army headquarters. In Kokura, Kyushu, Japan, the officers of the headquarters of the 24th Infantry Division of the US imperialist aggressor army, who were the first to take the field in the Korean war, were holding a masquerade.

Dean, the Commander of the 24th US Infantry Division, and the high-ranking officers of the puppet army at the showy balls were feigning ignorance by laughing, talking noisily, drinking and dancing, although all their nerves were focussed on the 38th parallel.

At the ball Dean appeared in a horse-hair hat and *turumagi*, the traditional attire of a Korean gentleman. One can well imagine why this man who was not a folklorist appeared in Korean costume at the ball that was being held in Japan.

They calculated that they could easily achieve their aggressive aim by launching a surprise attack on the northern half of the Republic under the smoke-screen of feigned peace and tranquility on the evening before the Sunday.

But their calculation was mistaken. Their stratagem was based on an overestimate of the advantage of “surprise in war” and the event turned out contrary to their expectations.

The world public, which was apprehensive of our fate because of the initial situation caused by the surprise attack on our side, was amazed at the immediate counterattack by the People’s Army.

There is no historical precedent for a hostile invasion

being dealt with by means of an instant counterattack.

Whenever previously a country was confronted with a surprise attack, it had to make a retreat, no matter how great its military and economic potentials, until it recovered from the loss and confusion caused by the first strike. When the aggressor was too strong, the defender used to be defeated, unable to remedy the situation.

However, the young Korean People's Army which had become a regular army only two years previously checked the surprise attack and launched a counteroffensive at once.

The great leader had seen through the aggressive design of the US imperialists and their lackeys from the days immediately after liberation. He had accordingly made the northern half of Korea a strong revolutionary base. He wasted no time in developing the Korean People's Revolutionary Army into the Korean People's Army, a regular army, and training it to be as tough as steel. He kept the People's Army and the People's Security Forces on the alert against the blatant manoeuvres of the enemy to provoke a war and ready for combat at all times.

That was why our People's Army and people were not frightened by the enemy's surprise attack, and the enemy's aggressive scheme was thwarted at the first step.

Dusk was descending on the first day of our people's heroic fight.

The great leader, who had been commanding the battle on the front all day, now sat at his desk till late at night without a moment's relaxation and began to prepare an historic radio speech that would rouse the people to the just war of resistance.

On June 26, 1950, the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung made a radio address, "Go All Out for Victory in the War". In his speech the great leader spoke about the grave situation in

the country and the justness of the war. He called upon the people to rise in the sacred struggle to save the country in order not to become enslaved by the forces of imperialism again. He stressed that a high degree of vigilance should be maintained at all times against every move of the US imperialists who were backing up the traitor Syngman Rhee clique.

Having roused our people to the heroic war of resistance, the great leader took measures to reorganize all the national efforts, political, economic and cultural, on a war footing.

The Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, representing the unanimous will of our people, acclaimed the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung as the Chairman of the Military Commission and as the Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army.

With the heavy claims of war on his shoulders, he lost no time in making an official declaration of war. He issued a decree on wartime mobilization across the whole of the country. And he immediately reorganized the national economy so as to cope with the war situation.

The Two-Year National Economic Plan was broken down into flexible quarterly plans. Industry, agriculture, transport and all other economic sectors were put on a war footing. Factories and other enterprises which had been producing goods for civilian use were converted into munitions factories, and additional new factories for war supplies were set up.

In accordance with the decree on wartime mobilization, a large number of working people, particularly young people and students, volunteered for service at the front. Their number amounted to 740,000 in a matter of days after the outbreak of the war and to 800,000 in a few weeks.

In addition, a vigorous campaign for wartime production

was set in motion. The working people on the home front worked hard to increase production in a spirit of determination to destroy the enemy.

By working overtime, they changed the system from a three-shift day into that of a two-shift day. They also launched various campaigns to increase wartime production such as a “front-line shock brigade campaign”, a “youth workteam campaign”, a “campaign to do the work of two or three” and so on.

The campaign for wartime production and in support of the front was also launched in the rural communities and fishing villages. Everyone, even women and schoolchildren and old people, took an active part in this campaign.

In whole-hearted response to the great leader’s militant call “Everything for victory in the war!” the entire Party, the whole army and all the people rose to the occasion.

Although the US imperialist aggressors, believing in their “strength”, looked down on the Koreans, our people who were fighting these aggressors were not the Koreans of the past when they had been tottering under the weight of the yoke of colonial slavery.

It was only five years since liberation, but our people were masters of the country who had taken their own destiny firmly in their hands, and clearly understood their historic mission.

The enemy failed to see what a strong will our awakened people had acquired under the guidance of the great leader and what a great strength they could display.

2) THE OPERATION TO LIBERATE SEOUL

The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung put forward an

outstanding military and strategic policy for victory in the war and commanded the counteroffensive of the Korean People's Army triumphantly.

His strategic policy was to liberate the country completely before large forces of the US imperialist aggressors were thrown into the Korean front, and to deploy our armed forces in all parts of the country quickly so as to prevent the approach of the enemy's reinforcement.

At the time when the Korean war broke out, there were no more than four American divisions stationed in the bases in the areas surrounding Korea. Therefore, if they were to attempt a full scale escalation of the war, they would have to import enormous quantities of strategic materials and large numbers of troops from the continental United States. To do this would take at least a month even if they employed the whole of their navy in this operation. This was the Achilles' heel in their strategy.

In order to carry out his strategic policy, the great leader made the decision to direct the main force of the Korean People's Army to the western sector of the front to surround and destroy the enemy forces in the Seoul area.

Seoul was the political, economic and military centre of the enemy. It was the seat of the ruling apparatus of Syngman Rhee and of the US imperialists. It contained the puppet army and other military command headquarters as well as a number of army divisions. It was a communication centre from which the main roads and railways ran throughout south Korea.

To strike the enemy in the Seoul area first, therefore, was most important in order to rout their main forces, throw their ruling and military-command systems into confusion, follow up the early success achieved by the People's Army, and carry out the strategic policy for victory in the war.

The great leader accordingly disposed his elite divisions in the western sector and concentrated the artillery, armour and air forces there.

Braving the enemy's heavy bombing and artillery barrage, the Korean People's Army broke through the enemy defences along the 38th parallel at a stroke. It then continued to advance southward, pursuing and mopping up the defeated enemy forces, and pressed on Seoul.

Towards the evening of June 27 the enemy's main force was driven into the Seoul area. The enemy became confused and panic-stricken. The top-level hierarchs began to turn tail.

On the morning of June 27, Muccio, the US Ambassador to Seoul, fled to the Suwon airfield where he escaped by plane to Japan. The traitor, Syngman Rhee, secretly fled southward. High-ranking US officers also ran away.

The puppet "national assembly members", who were ignorant of the situation at the front, held an extraordinary meeting and were arguing for an "all-out resistance to defend the capital city". Then when they heard the bursting of the artillery shells fired by the People's Army at a distance of four kilometres from Seoul, they took to their heels, asking themselves how it could be defended to the last.

The puppet soldiers who had been defeated at the front including the wounded flooded into the streets of Seoul so that the city itself became a pandemonium.

Prior to an all-out attack on Seoul, the great leader received a final briefing on the combat organization and preparations of the People's Army divisions. He then fixed the hour of attack for five o'clock a.m. June 28.

To ensure the attack's success, the great leader first ordered a few small units into the city to harass the enemy from the rear.

In accordance with his strategic and tactical policy, the

People's Army divisions took up attacking positions very close to the city and completed all the necessary arrangements. The small units that penetrated into the city confused the enemy by destroying his weapons and vehicles and killing the resisting enemy soldiers.

At the appointed H-hour our divisions launched an all-out attack on Seoul. An artillery barrage was followed by the advance of the tanks which made breaches in the enemy line through which our infantry divisions could advance. Our infantry struck the enemy both on his front and flanks and surged into the streets.

The enemy defences crumbled like a wet mud wall.

Our courageous tankers crushed the resisting enemy forces in cooperation with other friendly forces which entered the city. They hoisted the Republican flag with its five-pointed star and blue and red stripes on the top of the puppet "Capitol Building" and proceeded to the Sodaemun and Mapo Prisons where they released a large number of patriots and other people.

Fierce fighting took place in the streets of Seoul. The soldiers of the People's Army attacked the resisting enemy troops while protecting the lives of the citizens, their property and valuable cultural relics. The fighting ended at half past eleven that day. Seoul was liberated completely only three days after the opening of hostilities.

Complaining of their defeat, the enemy said, "On June 28 disorderly soldiers were defending half-heartedly on the south of the Han River. The Army Headquarters confirmed only 22,000 of the 98,000 soldiers who were on the army roll as of June 25. The ROK Army which had been said to be second in strength only to the US Army was not just defeated. It crumbled."

That was what the enemy earned in the flames of the war

which he had provoked by bragging in every conceivable manner.

3) TO COUNTER A LARGE-SCALE US MILITARY OFFENSIVE

The divisions of the Korean People's Army which liberated Seoul and dealt a crushing blow to the main force of the enemy continued to advance without slowing down.

The top hierarchy of the US imperialist warmongers were alarmed by the surging advance of the People's Army.

Having been informed of the loss of Seoul, US President Truman told the US Far East Command Headquarters in Tokyo to make a detailed report without delay. A source at the time said:

On the morning of June 29 MacArthur, Commander, FEC, flew from Haneda Airport to the Korean front on the plane set aside for his personal use. After landing at the Suwon Airfield, he hurried straight to the Han River to inspect the front-line situation. He then cabled to Truman:

"The ROK Army is no longer capable of counterattacking. The possibility of an enemy breakthrough is growing. Any further advance by the enemy will jeopardize the very existence of the ROK."

Having received the cable message, on June 30 Truman ordered large ground forces to be committed to the Korean front as he had planned. The US imperialists, who mobilized their air and naval forces when provoking the war, were going to send in their ground forces to the Korean front as well in order to turn the tide of the war in their favour and achieve the aim of their aggression, the occupation of the whole of Korea.

Early in July the US high command dispatched as reinforcements the Smith Task Force of their 24th Infantry Division.

The valiant soldiers of the People's Army, who accepted the orders of the Supreme Commander to put the nose of the arrogant US imperialist aggressors out of joint, surrounded the Smith Task Force and completely destroyed it in a matter of only two hours.

Dean, Commander of the 24th US Infantry Division, was dismayed at the news of the annihilation of the Smith Task Force and made this comment: "This is a stain on the honour of the great United States of America."

A press report from the United States stated: "It was believed that the appearance of the American troops would boost the morale of the ROK Army and the north Koreans would then be pushed back. But the reverse proved to be the case."

The crushing blow delivered to the advance party of the US ground forces by the Korean People's Army exploded the myth of American "strength" and demonstrated the invincibility of the People's Army to the whole world.

The US imperialists, embittered by their failure, set about stepping up their war of aggression.

The rulers of the imperialist United States took the Korean question to the UN Security Council on July 7 and got a resolution adopted to "justify" their armed aggression and to form what they called a "United Nations Forces". Large numbers of troops from the US and its satellites were then dispatched to the Korean front.

The Americans landed their 24th Infantry Division at Pusan and then sent their 25th Infantry and 1st Cavalry Divisions to the Korean front.

On July 8 their Eighth Army Headquarters was set up in

Taejon and the “UNC” Headquarters in Tokyo. The notorious war maniac, MacArthur, became “Commander-in-Chief of the United Nations Forces”.

Meanwhile, the US imperialists signed an “agreement” with the puppet clique on the “transfer of command prerogative” in order to totally subordinate the south Korean puppet army to their war effort.

Large forces of the US imperialist aggressors which boasted of their numerical and technical superiority were being thrown into the Korean war under the flag of the United Nations. How would the Korean people cope with this grave situation?

The eyes of the whole world were focussed on Korea, and all our people turned to the Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Il Sung.

On July 8, 1950, he delivered a radio address, “Repel the US Imperialist Invasion!”.

In this address he exposed the aim of the enemy’s large-scale invasion and their atrocities and dwelt on the successes achieved by the People’s Army and the factors in its victory. He expressed our people’s inflexible resolve to answer the US imperialist invasion with a decisive offensive and then put forward the fighting tasks for all our people and the officers and men of the People’s Army.

He said that the Korean people must win the freedom and independence of their own country; that all of them must support their army in every possible way; that the men and women guerrillas and the people behind enemy lines must develop guerrilla warfare as an all-people campaign; and that the officers and men of the People’s Army must destroy the enemy more ruthlessly and decisively.

His radio address roused all our people and the officers and men of the People’s Army to a heroic effort to destroy the

US imperialist aggressors. It inspired confidence in our friends and struck terror and anxiety into the hearts of the enemy.

The great leader established a well-knit command system extending to the front in order to cope with the prevailing situation.

At that time our forces were advancing rapidly, driving the enemy back across a wide front. The front line extended every day and more divisions were being sent to the front.

The great leader sized up the situation at the front and appointed competent cadres to the Front Headquarters and the army corps headquarters in order to strengthen the front-line headquarters. He also appointed fine Party workers to the army units as military commissars in order to improve Party guidance to the People's Army and intensify political work in the army. Meanwhile, he took measures to organize reserve forces on a large scale to meet the needs of extending front line and the requirements of the war which was dragging on.

With a view to increasing the combat potential of the People's Army, the great leader directed his effort to enlarging technical arms units quickly, especially the air forces.

He also tackled the problem of finding the military and political officers needed for the large number of new reserve units and the enlarged technical arms units. In spite of the many claims on him both at the front and in the rear, he even paid meticulous attention to the combat training of the units.

In view of the large ground forces the enemy were bringing up to the front, Comrade Supreme Commander strengthened coastal defences and organized a regional military commission for defence in each province to exercise unified command over the People's Army units, the People's Security Force units, public security forces, special self-defence forces (armed

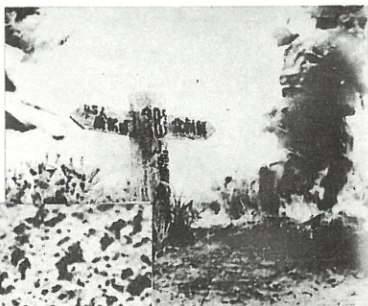


The Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Il Sung delivering the radio address “Go All Out for Victory in the War” to the entire Korean people



The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung talking with combatants of the People's Army at the front

The US imperialists and their south Korean puppet army making a sudden invasion of the northern half of our Republic on June 25, 1950



On June 18, 1950 John Foster Dulles, a warmaniac of the US imperialists, making a final inspection of the preparations for war against the northern half of Korea, actually on the 38th parallel, and their operation map



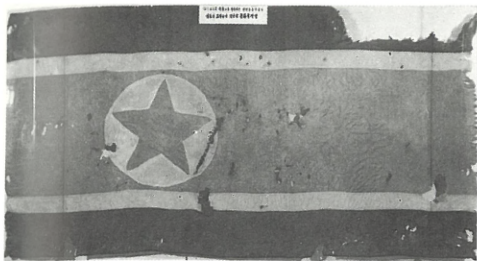
The brave men of the People's Army making their counteroffensive



This map of operations shows the attack made by our side on Taejeon City in south Korea



Soldiers of the People's Army making a triumphant entry into Taejeon City



The flag of our Republic which flew over our heroes on Height 1211 and trees on the battle site

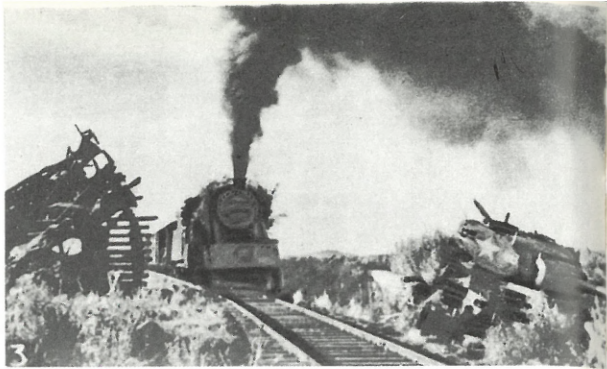


Men of the People's Army swear an oath to defend every inch of their homeland at the cost of their lives

The warriors of the People's Army defending Height 1211



Wartime rail transport hastening victory in the war



Women in the countryside devoting themselves to increased grain production under war-time conditions

The master plan to rebuild Pyongyang City which was worked out in the flames of war



A part of Pyongyang City which was levelled to the ground by the brutal bombing of the US air force





President Kim Il Sung among peasants in Wonhwa-ri, Tongam Sub-county, Taedong County, South Pyongan Province



The Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Il Sung acknowledges the enthusiastic cheers of the heroic officers and men of the People's Army and civilians who have emerged victorious from the Fatherland Liberation War



self-defence forces) and the local civilian population. He thus established an all-people defence system. Meanwhile, he even took meticulous steps to provide smooth wartime production and transportation. He strengthened rail transport, motor transport and even draft animal transport.

MacArthur himself commented on this:

“The enemy’s supplies and reinforcements always moved in a particular form and in large quantities. Judging from this it was clear that enormous amounts of these supplies... were flowing on through Seoul, in spite of our bombing and artillery fire. The units and their supplies always moved by night.

“Their skill and perseverance in repairing damaged bridges and roads were amazing. Consequently new divisions and armour brigades were able to arrive ceaselessly from north Korea. Food, ammunition, and other supplies were transported without interruption by rail, motor vehicles, carts or people with A-frames.”

The solid home front provided strong support to the advancing People’s Army as the front line moved southward.

4) *THE TRUE RECORDS OF THE LI DYNASTY WAS BROUGHT TO SAFETY*

One day in July, 1950, the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung summoned some educational workers to the Supreme Headquarters. Although he was busy consolidating the efforts both at the battle and home fronts to counter the large-scale offensive of the US imperialist invaders and commanding the triumphant advance of the People’s Army, he was also making plans to rescue cultural relics, the precious

wealth of our nation, from destruction by the enemy.

“You are going to be sent to Seoul,” he told them, “to bring the *True Records of the Li Dynasty* to safety.”

The educational workers were surprised. At a time when large forces of the US imperialist aggressors were starting to arrive on the Korean front, people could not afford the luxury of thinking about anything other than the war. Even the old people were nervous about the reports from the Supreme Headquarters and the children, too, talked about the developments at the front whenever they got together.

Moreover, the people knew that the People’s Army had liberated large areas of south Korea and was following up its success and that all the wealth in the liberated area was in the hands of the people. So none of them was concerned about the *True Records of the Li Dynasty* which, stored in a library in Seoul, was in danger of being consumed by fire at any moment as a result of the enemy’s brutal bombing raids.

The whole world was watching with apprehension the developments in Korea, which was confronted with the massive forces of the US imperialists, and everyone’s attention was focussed on the front. At this moment, the great leader was taking meticulous steps to protect the nation’s cultural relics from the enemy’s destruction.

Looking around at the educational workers who were speechless with excitement, the respected leader went on:

“Our country is undergoing severe trials. All the precious achievements of our nation are at risk in this war that the US imperialist aggressors and their minions have provoked.

“It is the communists who hold the country dearest, and it is the communists who truly love the nation. Who but we communists will save the national treasure? We must save it, come what may.”

The workers all felt a lump in their throats and answered that they would save it without fail.

The great leader took detailed measures to protect the *True Records of the Li Dynasty* which consists of 1,763 volumes.

The great leader scrutinized the operations map for a while. He then rang up a military commander and told him that the *True Records of the Li Dynasty* should be brought to a safe place but transport was a problem and that military vehicles would have to be provided for the purpose. He ordered another military commander over the phone to tell one of the army units stationed in Seoul to assist in the work.

He still did not feel quite assured. So he went over the matter again, studying if there might be any other problem with their journey to Seoul and back that he had so far overlooked. He even wrote a personal letter to the effect that the bearers of this letter should be given effective assistance in the performance of their mission.

When the books were brought, he saw to it that they were kept in a safe place at the Supreme Headquarters.

Under the meticulous care of the great leader the *True Records of the Li Dynasty* and other cultural relics of national significance were kept from being damaged in the war.

5) A GREAT ENCIRCLEMENT OPERATION

The front line moved farther to the south. In a matter of twenty days after the outbreak of the war, the Korean People's Army had liberated a wide area of south Korea.

The enemy who had been repeatedly hit hard by the

People's Army made frantic efforts to get out of the tight corner they were in.

On July 13 the US Army Chief of Staff, Collins, and the US Air Force Chief of Staff came to Tokyo for consultations with MacArthur.

The enemy deployed the 24th Infantry Division of the US imperialists at vantage points along the south bank of the Kum River, brought the 25th US Infantry Division in Japan to Pusan, Korea and decided to bring further divisions to the Korean front. The 8th US Army Commander was vested with the prerogative of unified command over all the ground forces in south Korea.

The 24th US Infantry Division and the puppet army units built up strong defences in the area south of the Kum River. They bragged that it was an "unbreakable line", the "last line of defence," which would "hold out for three years without question."

Unless this line of defence was penetrated, it would be impossible to liberate Taejon and to surround and destroy the main force of the US imperialist aggressors.

The Supreme Commander came to the Front Headquarters through the flaming battle zone. He arrived at dawn and held a briefing of the officers of the Front Headquarters without even taking time to recover from the fatigue of the long journey. He explained to them their mission and the course of action they should take to cross the Kum River and surround the enemy in the Taejon area.

After making full preparations our divisions started crossing the river. One of our small units had already crossed the river and was exploiting its success, destroying the enemy on the far bank relentlessly.

Our divisions held a line of 12 kilometres and the whole line started to cross the river simultaneously under the

protection of a powerful artillery barrage.

The enemy never dreamed that our forces would cross the river on such a wide front; probably he estimated that the river crossing would take place at a few selected points. That was why he had strengthened his defences at certain points where he anticipated our forces would attempt to cross the river, but had not “fortified” the whole of the wide front.

The Supreme Commander had penetrated into the enemy’s defence strategy. He decided to cross the river on a wide front so as to baffle the enemy and ensure that the crossing was a success.

The crossing of the Kum River by the divisions of the People’s Army occasioned a decisive turn in the operation to liberate Taejon.

Alarmed by their repeated defeats, the enemy was making frenzied efforts to hold out 'at Taejon, the puppets’ “temporary capital”.

While preparing strong defences in the Taejon area with the 24th US Infantry Division and all the puppet army forces, the brass hats of the US imperialist aggressors were hastily moving the 1st US Cavalry Division towards Taejon.

The 8th Army Commander himself went to Taejon in an attempt to turn the tide of the war in their favour on this line.

In those days a US news report commented in the following vein:

The Americans have advanced to the battlefield in the rain in order to fight the North Koreans.... The engagement of these two forces will be a decisive battle.... A whole new phase in the ground fighting will now be initiated as we move from the retreat to the offensive.

After commanding the Kum River crossing successfully, the Supreme Commander stressed to the officers of the Supreme Headquarters that the enemy forces should be

driven into Taejon, the strategic vantage point, surrounded and destroyed to the last man. He pointed out that in this way the myth of their “strength” would be shattered once and for all while the mettle of the Koreans would be displayed before the world. He explained in detail what should be done in the prevailing situation. He said:

The present front-line situation shows that the south-eastern sector of the Taejon area is left virtually open. If this gap is not closed up, the main forces of the enemy’s 24th Infantry Division can link up with his new forces which are moving towards the front and build up stronger defences by utilizing the steep natural terrain in that sector to advantage.

In these circumstances we must encircle Taejon promptly and completely so as to prevent the enemy’s new forces from linking up with the 24th Infantry Division and then destroy them.

He also said that although there was a need to check the advance of the approaching enemy’s reinforcements at the moment, it was of even greater importance to fill the gap in the southeastern sector of the Taejon area and form a ring of encirclement around Taejon quickly.

To this end, he went on, the People’s Army unit which has already advanced to the southwestern sector of Taejon should be moved around to the southeastern sector, instead of waiting for the arrival of our forces which are now engaged in heavy fighting near Chongju. That is the way to form the encirclement, he added. He drew a tight encirclement on the map of operations.

At that time people’s attention was, in fact, focussed on the flatland north of Taejon and on the mountainous area in the central sector because heavy fighting was going on in these areas. Our forces were trying to break through the enemy defences and advance quickly towards Taejon, while the

enemy forces on their part were preoccupied with the battle to check our advance to Taejon.

The situation on the western sector of the front was different. It was true that there was fighting in that sector but, as the enemy was concentrating on the north of the Taejon City, our division on the enemy's western flank had been able to advance without meeting heavy resistance and to push as far as Ronsan, southwest of Taejon, where it was waiting for further instructions.

The enemy overlooked this. He never imagined that this force of ours would turn around behind his line and move to the southeastern sector of the Taejon area.

The Supreme Commander had discovered the secret of victory on the western flank which was neglected by everyone else.

Our divisions began to move in accordance with this operational policy.

When dusk fell the People's Army forces near Ronsan began to move quickly towards the southeastern side of the Taejon area under cover of darkness.

The march was arduous. The distance which was more than 40 kilometres even by road had to be covered by a roundabout route through rugged mountains. Moreover, the marchers had to carry all the food and ammunition they would need for the battles ahead because they would not be able to receive regular resupplies once they had moved behind the enemy lines.

Thus the soldiers of the People's Army marched, overcoming all these difficulties by a display of unbreakable fighting spirit and courage, to occupy the southern and southeastern parts of the Taejon area secretly overnight and blocked the enemy's routes of retreat completely.

Meanwhile, the divisions of the People's Army which were

making a frontal attack, sped up their advance and arrived in the north of the Taejon area.

Our air force units engaged in fierce aerial battles and provided reliable cover for our ground forces.

Taejon was completely surrounded by our forces.

At the dawn of July 20 the divisions of the People's Army began an all-out attack on Taejon in accordance with the orders of the Supreme Commander. They pressed on and drove the encircled enemy into an area of six to seven square kilometres and struck him hard.

Our divisions surged from all directions into the city of Taejon where the enemy soldiers were swarming like tadpoles. The soldiers of the People's Army fought through flames to destroy the enemy troops mercilessly.

The panic-stricken enemy survivors tried to escape through the roads to the south and southeast of Taejon, but they were punished by our forces which had already been lying in ambush there.

The soldiers of the People's Army also destroyed the vanguard of the 1st US Cavalry Division which was moving towards Taejon belatedly.

The divisional commander, Dean, who had lost all his men escaped into an orchard. There he took off his own uniform and ordered his aide-de-camp to put it on. Then he sent him to Yongdong in his own car with the divisional colours and the "banner of honour". This was a scheme to disguise the aide-de-camp as the divisional commander and let him be captured or killed so that Dean himself would not be searched for by the People's Army.

After that, Dean changed into a private's uniform and went into hiding on a mountain. But he was captured by a soldier of the People's Army before he had gone far, while his aide-de-camp was also killed at the point of a KPA bayonet.

On July 20 the “invincible division” of the US imperialists was totally destroyed and Taejon was liberated.

The operation to liberate Taejon which was organized and commanded by the Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Il Sung was one of the most brilliant operations that adorned the history of the victorious Fatherland Liberation War.

VI. RADICAL CHANGE IN THE WAR SITUATION

1) TO MEET A SUDDEN CHANGE IN THE SITUATION

In the middle of September 1950 the situation changed suddenly because of the reckless manoeuvres of the US imperialists to escalate the war.

With an eye to retrieving the succession of ignominious defeats they had suffered since provoking the war and to achieving their aim of aggression at any cost, the US imperialists manoeuvred in every way possible to procure troop reinforcements from all parts of the world.

They mobilized not only all their ground, naval and air forces in the Pacific theatre and part of their Mediterranean fleet, but also the armed forces of their 15 satellites, including Britain and Turkey, and brought nearly 300,000 troops to the Korean front.

While staging massive offensive operations along the Rakdong River, they conducted a landing operation at Inchon with hundreds of naval vessels, approximately 1,000 air planes and 50,000 troops. The enemy's intention was to cut off our front from the rear and "surround and destroy" the main force of the Korean People's Army which had advanced as far as the Rakdong River line.

The People's Army was compelled to bring up its reserve

forces, which were not well prepared, to resist the large enemy forces.

Our forces engaged in heavy battles against the enemy but were unable to frustrate completely the advance of the enemy forces which were incomparably superior in number.

Our country and people found themselves in a grave crisis.

The imperialist reactionaries and the reptile press of the enemy clamoured that the outcome of the war was already “decided” and that the “victory” of the US imperialists was only a matter of time. They praised the “audacity” of the US imperialist warmongers who had mobilized such massive armed forces.

The honest-minded people throughout the world, feeling apprehension about the situation, expressed concern for our future. Anxiety and pessimism were revealed in our country, too. Some people lost confidence in victory and wavered. They overestimated the enemy’s “technical superiority” and worried about the outcome of the war.

The Pak Hon Yong and Li Sung Yop clique, the spies hired by the US imperialists, who had wormed their way into important posts in our Party and the Government of our Republic, even attempted to take advantage of the situation to realize their counterrevolutionary scheme by both overt and covert means.

Nevertheless, the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung approached this harsh national trial with unshakable conviction of ultimate victory. He laid down a new strategic policy in the firm belief that as long as there were our Party, our revolutionary democratic base, our people and our People’s Army, we would be able to frustrate the enemy’s attempt and assume a new offensive, no matter how the US imperialist aggressors tried to swallow up our young Republic, even by mobilizing the armed forces of their satellites.

His new strategic policy was to save the main force of the People's Army by gaining time through delaying the enemy's advance as much as possible; to form powerful counteroffensive forces by organizing fresh reserves; and to arrange a planned retreat.

On October 11, 1950, the great leader delivered an historic radio address, "Let Us Defend Every Inch of Our Motherland at the Cost of Our Blood," in order to rouse our Party, our people and the officers and men of the People's Army.

In this speech, he analysed the grave situation caused by the massive invasion of the country by the US imperialist aggressors. He then put forward the task of defending every inch of the country and of delivering the enemy a new decisive blow.

Standing at the helm of the arduous struggle to ride out the harsh trial, the great leader organized and led all the efforts to ensure the strategic retreat proceeded in an orderly and efficient manner.

2) HIS CARE FOR A SCIENTIST

In accordance with the great leader's strategic policy a large number of people headed for the north following the People's Army. Among them were scientists, men of culture and art, old people, women with their babies on their backs and young boys.

In this tense and arduous period when every single minute and second were precious, the great leader showed a deep concern even for the work of evacuating the people to safety.

One day in October, 1950, while inquiring how people were being evacuated according to the strategic policy on

temporary retreat, the great leader learned that a scientist had left Seoul with his wife in the last month of pregnancy and five children as well.

That day he was anxious about the safety of the scientist's family. He arranged for an ox-cart to be sent to him, saying that it would be safer to come by a mountain route with his wife and children on the ox-cart rather than coming by car along the highroad which was exposed to air raids.

A member of a scientific research team which had arrived at the destination earlier was sent to him with an ox-cart.

The scientist, who was about to set out, after staying overnight at a village on his way, was astonished to meet the man with the ox-cart. When they heard that the cart had been sent on the great leader's instructions, he and his family were moved to tears.

Although the retreat was difficult, they arrived at their destination safe and sound.

3) A YOUNG SOLDIER'S REPLY

One night when the strategic retreat was in full swing, the great leader was on his way to the temporary headquarters when he saw a contingent of People's Army troops approaching, singing the *Song of General Kim Il Sung* that echoed through the night sky.

Their discoloured summer uniforms and shapeless shoes showed that they had just come from the battlefield.

He stopped and called their commander over and asked him where they were coming from.

The commander replied that they had marched 800 kilometres from behind the enemy lines, fighting the enemy on

their way from the Rakdong River. When he heard this, the great leader squeezed the commander's hand warmly and spoke highly of his men. Then he asked a young soldier who was standing behind the commander his name, age and native place and where they were going.

"We are going to the Supreme Headquarters."

"What for?"

"To get new combat orders from Comrade Supreme Commander."

The young soldier answered in a spirited tone of voice.

The great leader asked whether they could defeat the Americans if they were given the orders.

"Yes, we can do it," came the confident reply not just from the young soldier but from all the other men as well who answered in chorus as if they had all made a solemn vow.

As he proceeded to the headquarters after parting from the soldiers, the great leader told himself that such an army and such a people would be unconquerable and our people would not fail to emerge victorious in the end.

This incident further confirmed his belief that the loyalty of the people and the army to the leader and the leader's confidence in them were the source of our invincibility and the sure guarantee for our victory. He duly pressed on with the preparations for the counteroffensive.

4) AT A HUNTING GROUND

At the critical moment when the massive forces of the enemy were attempting to swallow up the northern half of the Republic at one gulp, the great leader was firmly confident of victory and planning new operations with great composure.

One mid-October day that year the great leader suggested to his young aides-de-camp that they go shooting wild ducks. Not knowing his deep thoughts, the young officers were delighted. They had seen him under the pressure of operations at the field command post every day and they thought it was wonderful that he should find time to relax if only for a short while.

Carrying shotguns, they followed the great leader who passed through some clumps of dwarf oak trees and climbed a hill.

The Taedong River unfolded clear and blue before them.

Just at that moment a flock of wild ducks flew down to the water and started to swim in a leisurely fashion, rippling the surface. The scene was like a beautiful landscape painting.

Presently more ducks came and settled on the water.

The aides-de-camp waited for a gun report.

The great leader, however, did not shoot; he was content to watch the wild ducks at play.

"Our country is beautiful everywhere," he said after a long silence. "It is, indeed, like an embroidered pattern on a brocade. But the Americans are pouncing upon us now to conquer this beautiful land. However frantic they may be, they will not be able to bring the Korean people to their knees.

"We will not forgive the enemy!"

Then he said to the young officers, who were imploring him to shoot the wild ducks, that shooting is not the only pleasure of hunting. He explained that it is also very pleasant to breathe fresh air and meditate at a hunting ground like a chess player sitting working out the moves of chess with a line and hook cast into the water.

Only then did the aides-de-camp understand why the great leader had come to the hunting ground at this critical moment.

Although the US imperialists were claiming that “the Korean question was as good as completely settled”, our leader, calm and composed, was planning a new decisive counterattack that would make the enemy’s bragging look pretty silly.

Later our People’s Army switched over to a general counteroffensive and repelled the enemy who had invaded deep into the northern half of the country to the south of the 38th parallel.

The US imperialists suffered a debacle. Large numbers of their soldiers were killed, wounded or captured, and they were driven back 300 to 350 kilometres.

The American press could not hide their miserable defeat when it said:

“It was the worst defeat America has ever suffered.”

5) THE THIRD PLENARY MEETING OF THE PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE

The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung convened the Third Plenary Meeting of the Central Committee of the Workers’ Party of Korea on December 21, 1950.

That meeting which was held under the new circumstances in which the American aggressors who had made an invasion deep into the northern half of the Republic were fleeing to the south of the 38th parallel, struck by the general counterattack of our army, was the first conference since the beginning of the war.

The battle line had moved to the south, but fighting continued as heavy as before.

Because of the desperate manoeuvres of the US imperial-

ists who were plotting new military adventures to recover from their defeat at any cost, the war was becoming fiercer and there were indications that it would become protracted.

The prevailing situation demanded that the front and rear be consolidated further and that thorough preparations should be made for a decisive attack upon the enemy.

Before anything else, the difficulties and undisciplined practices resulting from the strategic retreat had to be overcome and the work of the Party, government bodies and the army improved radically.

During the trying days of the strategic retreat some officials of the Party, government bodies and the army lacked a due sense of organization and discipline in carrying out the directives of the Party and the state. The anti-Party, counter-revolutionary factionalists, in particular, tried to undermine the unity and cohesion of the Party and were given to seeking personal pleasure and comfort when the Party and people were undergoing severe trials. They intentionally encouraged the lack of discipline. They openly opposed or neglected the implementation of the Party's directives and, worse still, said that it was "the best time for factional activities."

Meanwhile, in the regions that had been occupied temporarily by the enemy, the Party organizations, government bodies and working people's organizations had suffered substantial damage. The people had become destitute and the reactionary air spread by the enemy in those regions would not be cleared away easily.

The great leader considered that in order to consolidate the front and rear and achieve the final victory in the war, it was of the utmost importance to strengthen revolutionary discipline in the Party, the state and the army and to establish Juche in the military field. That was why he had convened the Third Plenary Meeting of the Party Central Committee.

One day in December, 1950, he left Kosanjin for Hyangha-ri, the venue for the meeting.

On arrival he looked into the arrangements for board and accommodation for the participants and the preparations for the meeting place.

However, the meeting had not been properly prepared.

The anti-Party, counterrevolutionary factionalists, who were holding important posts in the Party Central Committee at that time, had not made due preparations for the meeting. All they had thought about was how to make themselves comfortable.

The great leader did whatever else he found necessary for the preparations and took meticulous care to ensure that the meeting would proceed smoothly.

He then put up at a small wooden-tile-roofed house where he sat at a round dining-table on a floor covered with a wood-shavings mat and worked on finalizing his report until the night before the meeting.

There was a howling snowstorm outside. Although the house had been carefully repaired by the local people before his arrival, it could not keep out the severe northern cold. Frost formed in the crack in the door.

The great leader stayed up through several nights, preparing the report to the plenary meeting personally, while organizing and leading the general counterattack to victory.

He was very tired but, nevertheless, was giving his all to hasten the final victory in the war. He was overcoming every difficulty because he was totally devoted to the fatherland and the revolution and possessed an extraordinary resourcefulness that was capable of turning an adverse situation into a favourable one and of achieving victory under any circumstances, as well as an iron will and unflagging energy.

The historic Third Plenary Meeting of the Central

Committee of our Party was opened in Hoedok Valley, Hyangha-ri.

At the meeting the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung delivered an historic report, "The Present Situation and the Immediate Tasks".

The report analyzed and reviewed our people's heroic struggle for victory in the war over the past six months, the major changes that had taken place in the military situation during the war, and the relevant policies of our Party and the struggle for their implementation. Then it set out the immediate political, economic and military tasks for final victory in the war.

Dwelling on the tasks facing the People's Army, he said in his report that it should speed up the pursuit, not giving the enemy breathing-space to pull himself together again, and establish Juche firmly in the military field.

His particular emphasis on establishing Juche firmly in the military field was based on a scientific analysis of the progress of the war so far.

During the six months of the war, some military commanders, without taking the features of our country's terrain and the specific battle situation into account, had copied foreign military regulations, neglecting mountain warfare and night actions and using more guns than howitzers in our mountainous country.

He emphasized the need to correct the tendency to adopt foreign techniques mechanically, to improve and strengthen the army's technical equipment as required by the country's geographical features and the specific combat situations, to conduct combat and political training by drawing on the living experiences and lessons acquired in the previous battles, to employ mountain warfare and night actions skilfully and to

organize efficient cooperation between the artillery and the infantry.

He also set the task of pushing ahead with the work of reconstruction and consolidation in the liberated areas.

In order to hasten final victory in the war, it was a matter of urgency to eliminate the confusion created during the retreat and to restore and improve the home front, in addition to reinforcing the battle front.

The great leader said that the Party, government bodies and working people's organizations in the areas liberated from the enemy should be restored and consolidated, the devastated economy reconstructed, the people's living standards stabilized and raised, and munitions produced and supplied more quickly and more efficiently.

He pointed out in particular that one of the most important tasks was to tighten up Party discipline.

Discipline is the lifeblood of the Party and a major factor in determining the militant power of the Party.

Moreover, it was especially important in the effort to ensure success at the front and consolidate the rear to establish the revolutionary discipline and strengthen the unity and cohesion of the Party in the prevailing situation in the war that demanded a high level of organization and prompt mobilization.

Then he clarified the principles of combatting and eliminating the ideological and political aftermath of the enemy's temporary occupation as well as the measures for dealing with those who were involved in the reactionary organizations in the areas which had been under enemy occupation.

He warned that unless the issue concerning these people was dealt with scrupulously, a serious mistake could be made. He said that those who had joined the reactionary organizations under threat but had not committed atrocities should

be pardoned and re-educated, and that even the worst cases should be subject to due legal procedures and dealt with by the people themselves in accordance with their opinions.

During the strategic temporary retreat, the US imperialists set up reactionary organizations in the occupied areas and forced the people to join them, thus compelling them to commit crimes against the country and the nation.

As a result, now that the enemy was gone, these people were uneasy because of the crimes they had committed.

The great leader's policy was wise in that it made it possible to smash the US imperialists' evil scheme for creating division and discord among our nation, put down a tiny handful of cursed reactionaries thoroughly, and rally the broad masses and organize and mobilize them in the struggle against the enemy.

He also instructed that a greater degree of the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance should be displayed.

As the war dragged on and battles grew heavier, the anti-Party, counterrevolutionary factionalists and some degenerates were loafing away their time. All that they could think about was finding safe refuges. They did not believe in our people's strength. They tended to pin all their hopes on international support.

He severely criticized this tendency. He emphasized that no matter who helped us and how, we had to solve our problems ourselves and we, the masters, had to strive harder.

He concluded this historic report with an expression of confidence that all Party organizations and members would display their indomitable valour and self-sacrificing spirit, carry out with credit the revolutionary tasks facing the Party at the time and so go on to ultimate victory in the Fatherland Liberation War.

As soon as he had finished speaking, the whole house

stood up and expressed its full support and approval of the report in enthusiastic applause.

The great leader's historic report was a beacon that illumined the road ahead of our people's struggle and inspired them with redoubled courage and steadfast faith in victory.

The Third Plenary Meeting of the Party Central Committee held under the guidance of the respected leader Comrade Kim Il Sung in the most trying days of the war was an important meeting that set the pressing tasks of clearing away the aftermath of the strategic temporary retreat and strengthening the front and rear. It was an historic meeting of great significance in consolidating the unity of ideology and will and action within the Party, state and army, by putting forward the policy of strengthening revolutionary discipline.

After this third plenary meeting our Party strove harder to maintain iron discipline in all fields, to establish Juche in the military field and to restore and consolidate the home front.

6) HIS WARM LOVE FOR THE PEOPLE

Although the enemy had not occupied the northern half of the Republic for long, the consequences were serious.

All that had been achieved during the period of peaceful construction was ravaged and the people became destitute.

A large number of people had lost their homes and were suffering from a shortage of food and clothing.

The war victims increased and the number of war orphans, children whose parents had been killed by the enemy, swelled.

The US imperialist aggressors had committed brutal atrocities in the occupied areas. They carried out massacres of

innocent people. A rough investigation showed that they had killed 35,383 people in Sinchon, 19,072 in Anak, 13,000 in Unryul and 25,300 in Yangyang.

They reduced our cities and villages to ashes. They destroyed many factories and enterprises that had been built by the sweat of our people's brows. They burnt down the schools where our lovely children had been learning. They even destroyed hospitals.

Wherever they had set foot, they had plundered our people of their property, everything they could lay their hands on.

They plundered more than 14,000 tons of rice, 64,000 head of cattle and 15,000 pigs in South Pyongan Province alone.

They looted the private enterprises and shops, to say nothing of the state establishments, state enterprises and department stores. They searched people's homes and took away precious metals, clothes, bedding, furniture and even rice bowls.

After putting forward the specific tasks, at the Third Plenary Meeting of the Party Central Committee, of removing this terrible havoc caused by the enemy during his temporary occupation and of consolidating the home front, the great leader, on his long journey back to Pyongyang, thought constantly about the detailed measures that needed to be taken to cure the people of their aching wounds and restore stability to their lives.

His heart was torn to see through the car window the destroyed streets and villages, broken lamp-posts, and the sites of schools with only their walls remaining. Wherever he went he acquainted himself with the extent of the enemy's atrocities and how the people were living.

When he stopped at the village of Chondong, Kaechon County, for instance, in spite of the fatigue of an all-night

journey through a snowstorm, he listened to the villagers and learned the details of the enemy's barbarities committed there.

As he listened to them with a grim expression on his face, the great leader held in his arms a little girl who had been playing in the courtyard and had then come into the room.

He asked the girl how old she was, what her parents were doing and whether she was going to school.

The girl answered in a clear voice.

On hearing that she could not go to school because the enemy burnt it down, he went on to ask what other brutalities the Yankees had committed. Then he said that as they had been driven away, a good society where children could play pleasantly would come about and asked her to sing a song.

He was doing this in order to brighten the little girl's heart and dispel the heavy atmosphere in the room.

The girl stood up, adjusted her dress and sang the *Song of General Kim Il Sung*—the immortal revolutionary song.

He was the first to applaud her and said that she sang very well.

That day after discussing with the villagers what measures needed to be taken to heal the wounds of the strategic retreat, he resumed his journey. When he reached Sapyong-ri, Naenam Sub-county, Sunchon County, he stopped his car and entered a farmhouse.

He wanted to know how things were at this roadside house, although he had already learned much of the situation at many other villages.

An elderly woman greeted him courteously.

He sat on the floor without ceremony and started talking to her.

The enemy had caused heart-rending wounds to this family, too.

Suppressing her tears, she told how the enemy murdered her husband who was the Party cell chairman of the village and even took away all her furniture. She spoke with bitter resentment towards the enemy.

After hearing the tragedy of this family, he remained silent for a while.

"The Yankees are our enemies," he said, consoling her. "You must live more stoutly and revenge the enemy."

Then stroking the hair of sleeping children curled up in summer clothes, he asked his aide-de-camp if there was something to give the children.

The officer brought a box of biscuits from the car, but he hesitated. He used to serve the biscuits to the respected leader while he worked because he would not stop to take proper meals, and now there were not many left.

The respected leader told him to put the box down and personally picked some up and put them in the hands of a girl who had just woken up. Then he opened the door to the kitchen and looked over the utensils. He felt the heated floor of the room to gauge its warmth. He asked how she was faring for firewood, whether she had rice to eat, and about every aspect of her life.

The woman was moved to tears by the leader's kind care and concern. She told him frankly that she could manage with other things but she was most worried as to how she would manage to bring up the children now that her husband, her pillar and prop, was dead.

"Put up with it for a while," the great leader said to her in a quiet and yet strong voice. "Let us bring up these children like those who have fathers. We must do so, musn't we?"

And stroking the children's hair, he continued:

"We must bring up these children well. They must be brought up to be the strong prop and stay of the country as

befitting the sons and daughters of the good father who sacrificed his life for the Party and the country.”

From the tragic wound of this one family the great leader could feel the misfortune suffered by all the people and plan the measures to be taken by the state to alleviate the suffering of the people and their children.

He reassured her repeatedly that she should not worry about the children and then left the house. He fell silent lost in deep thought. When the car had run on for a few miles, he suddenly asked the aide-de-camp:

“What did we give the children?”

The officer was unable to answer. He knew that he was asking because he was sorry for not having given something more to these children who had been bereft of their beloved father. However, even the officer, whose heart swelled when he heard the question and all the affection it implied, did not understand the depths of the heart of the great leader who made a decision to bring up the children of patriotic martyrs and war orphans in the care of the state for the women who were bereft of their husbands and the children whose fathers had been killed by the enemy.

This was how the benevolent measure the state took to undertake the care of all the children who lost their parents in the war came to be planned.

Back in Pyongyang, he inspected Pyongyang City and many places in South Pyongan Province, travelling through enemy bombing, and familiarized himself with the general situation.

On this basis, the great leader took one measure after another to heal the wounds caused during the enemy's temporary occupation and consolidate the home front.

In order to stabilize the people's livelihood even when everything had been reduced to ashes, the great leader took

measures to produce and supply them with clothes, footwear and other daily necessities, solve the food problem, improve the distribution of goods as required by the war situation, strengthen the medical services, exempt some taxes, relieve the war victims, and give state and social assistance to the bereaved families of patriotic martyrs, the dependent families of the soldiers and honourably wounded soldiers.

VII. FOR THE FINAL VICTORY IN THE WAR

1) US IMPERIALISTS PROPOSED ARMISTICE TALKS

It was one year after the start of the war.

During that year our People's Army and people scored brilliant results, dealing one telling blow after another to the US imperialist aggressors.

According to their own doctored statistics, the US imperialist aggressors sustained the loss of equipment worth over 50 billion dollars during the period. This exceeded half the loss they had suffered during the Second World War.

The myth of the "might" of the US imperialists was shattered to smithereens.

The bloodstained massacre they perpetrated in the Korean war revealed to the whole world their aggressive nature, bestiality, ferocity and cruelty. They were denounced by the world's people as the heinous aggressor and "cannibals of the 20th century", and the cry "US imperialists, take your bloodstained hands off Korea!" was strongly voiced in all parts of the world.

With their repeated setbacks and as denunciation increased, discord and conflict grew within the enemy camp.

A number of countries following the US imperialists were reluctant to comply any longer with their master's order to mobilize their armed forces to the Korean front. Within US

ruling circles, too, there was sharp criticism; “The Korean war is the one that has cost the US dearest and caused the greatest casualties out of all the wars they have ever waged. It is a war which has been a waste of time and effort.”

Driven into a corner, in June, 1951, the US imperialist aggressors were compelled to stop at the 38th parallel where they had started the war.

But they did not give up their aggressive designs and prepared another “large-scale offensive” to recover themselves from the defeats they suffered during the first year.

While regrouping their forces and augmenting their planes and artillery, they watched for a chance to break through the frontline and conduct landing operations on the east and west coasts.

In this situation the great leader laid down a new strategic policy on building up a strong defensive position. To do this, he ensured that tunnells were built on both low and high heights along the battle line and on the coasts so as to turn the defensive positions into an impregnable fortress.

As a result, strong defensive positions were built in the forward area and on the east and west coasts which would be equal to any attack from ground, sea or air.

Our army which went on the defensive on all fronts in mid-June 1951, frustrated the enemy’s “test action” and drove them into an even tighter corner.

The enemy who was hard hit in the preceding operations and had dug in along the 38th parallel launched ceaseless attacks on some sectors under the mask of a “test action” in an attempt to create favourable conditions for the attack to follow.

To this end the enemy forces dropped thousands of bombs every day on the line where our divisions were deployed as well as tens of thousands of shells on those heights of

strategic importance, the points on which they would launch a drive.

However, our valiant People's Army men who had adopted an all-out defensive position repulsed a succession of their desperate attacks, scores of which were launched daily. The enemy suffered an ignominious military defeat and found himself in a still more difficult situation.

The enemy was totally confused and seized with fear and despair.

The US imperialist aggressors had to propose armistice talks on June 30, 1951.

On this occasion they attempted to appease public opinion by making out it was they who wanted to bring the war to an end and make peace, while trying to impose brigandish truce conditions on us and so achieve the aims they had failed to achieve in the war. At the same time they were making another military attack by putting off the talks to make us relaxed.

The great leader made up his mind to answer this vicious political intrigue with a political offensive. He called a special meeting of the Cabinet on July 1, in which he noted; the US imperialist aggressors' overtures meant that they surrendered to us; and that we should take advantage of the armistice talks to expose and frustrate their insidious attempt and take the initiative in the talks in order to end the war and achieve peace. Clarifying our revolutionary stand, he also took specific measures to meet all possible contingencies; the agenda and others during the talks.

Following the meeting of liaison officers from both sides, the armistice talks started on July 10, 1951, in Kaesong.

The talks proceeded with fierce disputes from the outset starting with the discussion of the agenda.

When he received the report of the first-day session, the

great leader said that it would be good to present a draft on the agenda from our side. He gave an account of the draft and other problems involved in setting up a demilitarized zone with the 38th parallel as the military demarcation line of both sides, the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Korea, and how the problem of POW should be handled after the ceasefire.

On the following day our side presented its agenda. It was a fair proposal to terminate the war in Korea and achieve a genuine peace and a just one that would be acceptable to the enemy if he had the slightest concern for the peaceful settlement of the Korean question. But he did not accept our agenda.

When the problem of withdrawing all foreign troops from Korea was presented, the enemy side persistently refrained us from anticipating a slight guarantee for the peaceful reunification of Korea, saying that they were entrusted by their superiors to discuss only military affairs.

They delivered incoherent sophistries: they proposed to discuss the problem of an international Red Cross delegation's inspection of the POW camp instead of the immediate repatriation of all the POW, as well as that of fixing a demilitarized zone instead of a military demarcation line. This amply revealed the true colours of the aggressors and clearly showed that they had no concern about the truce itself.

Not only in the discussion of the agenda but also in discussing the problem of the military demarcation line, they disclosed their bestial nature as aggressors. They tried to wrest 13,000 square kilometres of land from our side.

Their unjust assertion was duly rebuffed.

In the long run they suffered another ignominious defeat at the armistice talks where they tried to achieve what they

had already failed to achieve through their military operations.

Their underhand political and diplomatic offensive was frustrated and the truce negotiations came to a standstill for an indefinite period.

2) EFFECTIVE USE OF ARTILLERY

In order to strengthen defence at the front, the great leader emphasized that there was a particular need to utilize artillery properly.

Although they were sharply criticized, the dogmatists, who held positions of responsibility at the front headquarters at that time, committed harmful acts: they did not make any effort to use artillery properly, advocating what they called “mobile warfare” or “close battle”; and they transferred guns far into the rear under the pretext of “protecting” them from air and ground attack.

The great leader exposed and frustrated their anti-Party criminal acts in time. He taught that units at the front should have more mortars, so as to make the best use of them and they should deploy guns on the heights to deliver a heavy blow to the enemy, and that the units defending the coast should organize mobile gun companies to strike enemy ships.

At that time the great leader met Comrade Choe Hyon, an anti-Japanese revolutionary fighter, who was about to leave in charge of a frontline unit. He said to him that some comrades at the front headquarters were insisting on fighting with small arms and handgrenades, while moving guns, a powerful striking means, towards the rear area on the ground that they were “protecting” them from the enemy’s

air and ground attack. Noting that this was a defeatist act, he instructed that they should deploy the guns on the heights and smash the enemy.

On his way to the Yangdok area that night Comrade Choe Hyon found that all the guns were being moved to the rear.

He soon conveyed to his men the great leader's instructions on moving guns to the front and went to the front with the guns attached to his army corps. On arrival at the corps he immediately had guns deployed on top of hills.

In modern warfare great importance has been attached to the use of artillery. But in general, military experts only emphasized the need to concentrate on using artillery in open terrain, advocating that only howitzers and mortars at most should be used in mountainous areas.

But the great leader ensured that even the direct-firing guns, along with howitzers and mortars, were used to good effect in the mountainous areas by moving them onto the hills in keeping with the topographical features of our country.

This had resulted in a radical increase in the role of artillery in our mountainous regions.

3) ON WHICH SECTION WOULD THE ENEMY LAUNCH DRIVE?

As the US imperialist aggressors could not achieve their aims with their brigandish logic in the truce talks, they attempted to "subdue" us with "military pressure". They massed huge forces on the western and eastern sectors of the front and, at last, in August that year fired guns from various directions of the front.

The situation at the front became very tense.

In order to cope with the prevailing situation a meeting was convened to discuss this matter.

On which section would the US imperialist aggressors launch their main drive?

Quite a few people were inclined to the view that the enemy would launch his drive on the western sector of the front. Citing the fact that many ground units and ships of the enemy were manoeuvring in the west coast area, they said that this time, too, the enemy would throw his main force into the western sector of the front, the area which is favourable to mobility.

One of their arguments was that the enemy was aware of the fact that in mountain warfare he was at a disadvantage and that the eastern sector was a mountainous area.

Therefore, they suggested that we move men and resources towards the western sector of the front to concentrate our defences there.

After listening to them carefully, the great leader stepped slowly towards an operations map.

Everyone stared at him wondering what his conclusion would be as to the direction of the enemy's main attack.

Pointing to the eastern sector of the front on the map, he stressed that the enemy would launch his drive therefrom.

There was a stir for a while at the meeting hall.

The great leader looked around everyone in attendance. They were all full of admiration at what he had said. He said that the main point of defence should be on the eastern sector, not on the western sector, explaining in detail about the general attempt of the enemy, the deployment of his groups, the character of his action, the geographical features of the eastern sector of the front and its influence on the military action.

Everyone who was present there could not help but

admire the infallible judgement of the great leader who penetrated deep into the enemy's plot with unusual wisdom and keen perspicacity.

Formerly, what the enemy had pursued in the "summer offensive" was to conquer the mountainous area, a strong-point of strategical importance on the eastern and central sectors of the front, by combining a landing operation on the east coast with a ground attack on the fronts and, furthermore, to occupy the whole area of the northern half of the Republic, and, finally, to achieve an "honourable armistice".

In preparing this offensive, the enemy had planned to carry out the attack in the rainy season, in consideration of the climatic and topographical features of Korea. He had calculated that the mobility and supply service of our army would be difficult because the rivers in the mountain areas overflowed in the rainy season, and as a result, our army would suffer hardships, and accordingly he would easily achieve his aim if he strengthened the "massacre operation" from the ground and the air.

In accordance with this plan the enemy mobilized a large force of 130,000 troops supported by over 1,000 planes and numerous tanks, guns and warships into the eastern sector of the front.

The great leader commented on the fact that although the enemy was creating tension at the whole front, firing guns, this was a mere smoke screen for the "summer offensive". He concluded that the enemy's main attack would be on the eastern sector of the front.

Thus, combined defence units on the west coast and some other units in the rear moved quickly to the eastern and central sectors, thereby setting up a defence system involving powerful and broad sectors from the front to the rear. And

strong defence zones were formed at the points of strategic importance.

The enemy set up a smoke screen for his “summer offensive” in many areas at the front and showered tens of thousands of shells and bombs every day in order to make a breakthrough in our line of defence on the eastern sector.

The enemy, however, could not destroy our defences which relied on tunnels.

Our artillery men who pulled up guns on every hill sent direct firings upon the enemy.

Scared at our artillery’s firepower the enemy cried: “The People’s Army showers fire from the sky”; “What a large number of guns the People’s Army has!” and “The shells of the People’s Army have eyes”.

The Commander of the US 8th Army took Syngman Rhee, the defence minister, the chief of the naval staff and other brass hats of the puppet army to the front, where he held a meeting of its generals on the eastern sector, and forced them to continue the attack at all costs.

Fierce battles went on; guns started roaring early in the morning, and hand-to-hand fighting continued until sunset.

Scheming to break through our defences again, the enemy launched an attack on broad sectors of our eastern front in September.

However, the valiant soldiers of the People’s Army dealt wholesale death and destruction to the enemy and filled up the valleys with the corpses.

Referring to the heroic struggle of our People’s Army, a UP reporter wrote:

“The north Korean army has never failed in all the fierce battles to repulse the attacks of the UN army. The UN flying corps and guns could not back up its poor army, nor could they deliver a telling blow to the communist army.”

Under the sound guidance of the great leader, an ever-victorious and iron-willed brilliant commander, the brave men of our People's Army frustrated the enemy's adventurist "summer offensive" through stubborn defence and active combat, and thus achieved brilliant results in battle.

4) THE BATTLE DEFENDING HEIGHT 1211

The battle on height 1211 was one of the fiercest through which the enemy tried his best to achieve the purpose of his "autumn offensive".

Height 1211 was a point of strategical importance. It was a commanding height in the eastern sector of the front. It stood guard over the highroads of strategical significance, the gateway towards our rear.

If it had been occupied by the enemy, we might have had to yield many adjacent heights, including Mt. Kumgang, from where we would have had to retreat immediately as far as Wonsan.

Thus, Height 1211 was the key to the military and political situation and was an important factor in determining the ultimate destiny of the war.

It was from this point of view that the enemy was again aiming at this height in the eastern sector of the front, although hard hit in the "summer offensive".

The great leader had always foreseen that this height would become a fierce battle site where the outcome of the battle at the front would be decided on account of its strategical situation and geographical features.

One day while the enemy's preparations for the "summer

offensive” were in full swing, the great leader called Comrade Choe Hyon to the Supreme Headquarters. Pointing to the operations map he gave him the details of the enemy’s insidious design to intensify the “military pressure” still further and to attack us, as well as our operations to cope with him. Then the great leader gave him a combat mission for the defence of Height 1211.

While everyone was concerned with the enemy’s “summer offensive”, the great leader had a strong defence fortress built in advance, in anticipation of the enemy’s possible offensive in the future and the fierce fight on the height.

Comrade Choe Hyon, who was assigned the honourable task of defending the height, stirred up all his combatants in building up the defence position into an impregnable fortress.

One day in the latter half of September, 1951, to his surprise he happened to meet the Supreme Commander on the frontline height.

He had been acquainting himself with the situation at the front and commanding battles via the telephone installed in the units. But now he was out to the forefront to give on-the-spot guidance on perfecting the defence system. He remarked that the best way to understand the situation at the front was not via the phone or through liaison officers but through seeing it with one’s own eyes.

Choe Hyon was going to take the Commander to his headquarters immediately out of concern for his safety but the Commander reading his thoughts, said, “You’re worried that I have come all the way to the dangerous forward front. But there’s no reason why I cannot go to where our soldiers are fighting; I must go anywhere where our soldiers are fighting even if it’s far away and dangerous.” Then he climbed the height and watched the battlefield through binoculars.

He looked round the frontline area for a long time and

acquainted himself with the situation at the front. He said that the enemy was daydreaming if he expected to realize his ambition in the “autumn offensive” at any cost in order to make up for his failure in the “summer offensive”. He reaffirmed that the direction of the enemy’s main attack was the area around Height 1211. Then he gave valuable instructions to be regarded as a guide in defending the height.

The Supreme Commander’s guidance tour of Height 1211 instilled valour and courage in its defenders.

There were changes in life on the height afterwards.

One of them was that the soldiers were delighted at finding on their dining tables a dish made of bean sprouts.

On his visit to the height, the fatherly leader had discovered that the men were not receiving plentiful supplies of vegetables. He was worried that the undersupply of vegetables would affect the soldiers’ health. He said that he would send beans when he returned and that bean sprouts should be grown for their diet. Just as he had promised, a large consignment of beans arrived and a few days later bean sprouts were raised on the height.

All the combatants’ minds burned with loyalty to live up to the care the great leader had shown by coming all the way out to the front in person and to the expectations he had shown in entrusting them with the height of the fatherland.

By the end of September, 1951, the enemy at last launched a widespread drive on Height 1211.

He attacked our combined unit ten times a day under the cover of a large number of planes, guns and tanks.

All the officers and men of our combined unit, who were fully prepared, showered a rain of fire on the enemy who was attacking in wave after wave, pumping tens of thousands of bombs and shells each day. Our men inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy and finally frustrated his attack.

The first victory gave the defenders of Height 1211 a full appreciation of the effectiveness of the mined defence system and of the might of the guns that had been drawn up to the height. This further increased their confidence that as long as they were soundly led by the great leader, the enemy's frantic attacks and "technical superiority" would be futile and that they would surely emerge victorious.

On September 26, 1951, when fierce battles were raging, the great leader called Comrade Choe Hyon, the then Commander of the 2nd Army Corps, on the telephone at midnight.

He first inquired about the health of the combatants who were fighting on the height.

The commander was greatly moved by the warm love he bestowed on the soldiers, ringing up at midnight to inquire about their health although he had visited the height just a short time previously, and looking into every detail of the soldiers' lives. He answered that they were all in good health.

The great leader said that the Party was highly satisfied with the exploits of the combatants on Height 1211. He asked about the provisions supply and how the soldiers were managing. He added earnestly that every single man was a precious treasure. He told Choe Hyon that he should look after them to the best of his ability, that they should be served with hot boiled rice and soup as it seemed to be cold, and that he should make sure that they are not cold when they go to bed.

He was greatly moved by the great leader's boundless love because he himself, who was sleeping and taking meals with the combatants on the height, had not been much concerned with that issue.

After a while, the great leader went on:

"The more they realize that it is the wish of their parents

and the Party's demand that not an inch of the sacred fatherland be yielded to the enemy, the better they will fight. You must let them know this well."

It was an instruction to instill warm love for the fatherland and people in their minds more deeply by intensifying the political work.

The battle at Height 1211 was the fiercest battle of its kind in the history of warfare.

In order to realize their designs at any cost in the "autumn offensive", the enemy forces attacked in wave upon wave, resorting to "the utmost bombing", "the utmost shelling" from the outset of their attack.

Despite the enormous loss of manpower and combat equipment, the enemy desperately committed to battle a regiment when a battalion was frustrated, and then a whole division when the regiment was foiled. At the same time it launched a flank attack when a frontal attack was frustrated and then applied the frontal and decoy attack simultaneously when both of them were foiled.

Based on close inquiry about the frontal situation at Height 1211 and its vicinity, the great leader foresaw the enemy's plans of attack and ensured that heavy blows were dealt to the enemy at all times.

True, the enemy carried out a succession of attacks from the start of their offensive; he attacked 125 times during the five days from 27 to 31 of October.

However, he could not deprive us of even an inch of land, and, worse still, he lost a lot of manpower and an enormous amount of combat materiel and technical equipment in the "autumn offensive".

A POW captured at Height 1211 at that time had in his possession a newspaper published in Seoul. The paper contained an article entitled "Heartbreak Ridge", admitting

the defeat the enemy was suffering from the battles around Height 1211.

He said that the enemy soldiers gave Height 1211 this nick-name because their hearts would be broken only to look up at the height as long as it remained uncaptured and, in spite of their attacks, it was they who were killed, and the gorge in their path was called the “Punch Bowl” because they were killed once they set foot in it.

Even the generals of the US imperialist aggressor army cried over their ignominious defeat; “The world’s most advanced weapons have now become powerless on the eastern sector of the front.”

By defending Height 1211, one of the important strongholds on the eastern sector of the front, to the last, the units of our People’s Army totally frustrated the enemy’s “autumn offensive” on all the fronts and successfully carried out the strategic policy of taking up a defensive position.

5) THE FOURTH PLENARY MEETING OF THE PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE

In order to achieve the complete victory in the war, the great leader always showed a deep concern about strengthening our Party and increasing its fighting efficiency. In particular, he directed great efforts to rectifying the errors revealed in the Party’s organizational work as soon as possible.

At that time “Left” tendencies were being revealed in the Party’s organizational work due to the evil acts of the liquidationists. They did not make allowances for the complicated situation of our country and ignored the mass

character of our Party. They persistently pursued a closed-door policy towards the growth of the Party ranks and arbitrarily punished or expelled those Party members who had made trifling errors during the temporary, strategic retreat.

As long as this state of affairs inside the Party continued, the broad masses could not be rallied firmly behind the Party nor could the complete victory in the war be achieved.

The great leader opened the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea in Pyongyang on November 1, 1951, in order to rectify the "Leftist" tendency revealed in the organizational work of the Party, to augment the Party ranks and intensify the ties between the Party and the popular masses.

At the meeting he delivered an historic report, "On Some Defects in the Organizational Work of Party Organizations".

In the first place the great leader put emphasis on developing in strength and scope our Party into a mass party.

At that time the liquidationists did not admit patriotic, progressive elements into the Party on various grounds.

Despite the fact that factories were destroyed by the enemy's savage bombing and the number of workers was considerably decreased, they did not admit to the Party large numbers of the peasants who were displaying patriotic devotions, only checking up the growth rate of the industrial worker's origin. Also in the People's Army they did not recruit the soldiers of worker and peasant origin on the grounds that they did not learn the Party programme and rules by heart and that their political and theoretical level was low. When it came to admitting workers into the Party, too, even the decision of a Party cell meeting on the admission of a worker into the Party was turned down for the reason that the period of his labour service was 15 days short of the required number of days.

The great leader analyzed and severely criticized these mistakes revealed in the growth of Party ranks, citing examples to illustrate each point, and then set the tasks of rectifying them.

In the next place he was very critical of the tendency to resort to meting out penalties.

Quite a few Party members were expelled from the Party or given Party penalties because they buried their Party membership card in the ground or left them with others during the strategic, temporary retreat in order to prevent the enemy from depriving them of the cards. 80 and 85 per cent of all Party members who had incurred penalties had incurred them for this reason.

One county Party committee made the mistake, when the work of registration began, of expelling from the Party ranks those who were not faithful in Party life or who were not as active as they should be in ordinary times instead of educating them.

The great leader emphasized that a vigorous struggle should be waged in all Party organizations, from the centre down to the cells, against the tendency towards the penalty-first policy. He said that since the purpose of meting out Party penalties was to educate the Party members in such a way that they should not commit errors again, the penalties that were unjustified or too severe should be cancelled or corrected and those who displayed enthusiasm in their work after being penalized had to have their penalties cancelled.

In his report the great leader made particular mention about focussing effort on strengthening the Party cells for the qualitative consolidation of the ranks of our Party; about showing a special concern for conducting the work of educating the new members well and of fostering the core of the Party; about improving and strengthening the work of the

united front in order to cement the relations between the Party and the masses; and about waging an all-Party struggle in order to overcome the bureaucratic, formalistic style of work that was apparent in the work of some officials.

Concluding his report, he called upon the whole Party to boldly lay bare the mistakes evident in the organizational work of the Party, adopt measures to rectify them and to turn out in the Party work substantially.

After the plenary meeting the Party organizations at all levels waged a vigorous struggle to rectify the closed-door and penalty-first tendencies.

Through this struggle, the “Leftist” deviation in Party work was rectified and tens of thousands of progressive elements among the workers, peasants, working intellectuals and soldiers who displayed patriotic zeal and devotion at the front and in the rear, were admitted into the Party. As a result, in no more than a year after the fourth plenary meeting, our Party became a strong force with as many as one million members.

Also a great many core elements of the Party cells were fostered. The Party penalties that had been applied wrongly were corrected. And the Party members’ energies and creativity were harnessed far, far more effectively.

The work of the united front was also improved and the sense of trust and support of the people of all strata to our Party became deeper.

6) THE HISTORIC FEBRUARY SPEECH

The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung waged a strenu-

ous struggle against the bureaucratism displayed by the officials in the power organs.

The hard-fought war urgently demanded that the people's power organs vigorously mobilize the whole people to the struggle for victory in the war, consolidate the front and rear, meet the increasing demands of the front in time, and stabilize the people's livelihood under wartime conditions.

The great leader, with a deep knowledge of the grave tasks confronting the people's power organs, took a series of measures to strengthen the people's power organs even in the difficult situation of wartime.

However, instead of faithfully performing their role as servants of the people, some officials working in the people's power organs behaved in the way the bureaucrats had done in the days of Japanese rule and were retaining the bureaucratic style in their work.

In some villages people were asked to till the lands of sub-county and ri people's committee chairmen and raise money for them on the occasion of their birthday or other feasts. They were saddled with various financial burdens, besides taxes, under this or that pretext. Worse still, one particular county people's committee had a cow slaughtered to give a banquet in celebration of its chairman being decorated with an order and made the people pay for the cow. Some officials acted in the fashion of Japanese imperialist officials when collecting taxes. They collected the taxes in kind by the method of forced delivery practised in the Japanese imperialist days and did not hesitate to ransack the people's rice-bins or clothes boxes. Some even went to the preposterous lengths of making state purchases on credit.

Moreover, they did not bother to find out what the masses wanted but asserted that anything they did was right. Nor did they trouble themselves to heed the advice of others or the

voices of the people. This kind of person, when going out to the provinces, did not give ear to the voices of the people but listened only to flatterers and took consolation from their false reports, causing tremendous confusion and undermining the work.

There were cases when they reported that areas where crops had not been sown had been done. Then a heavy burden was imposed on the peasants in the autumn when they were demanded to pay the taxes in kind assessed on the basis of such reports. There were other cases when the peasants were pressed for the delivery of the tax in kind within the set time unconditionally and no account was taken of the actual situation. Then unripe grains would be gathered in, doing tremendous harm both to the peasants and to the state.

Such bureaucracy was revealed in cloth production, too. This drive was a splendid patriotic movement embracing all the people to satisfy the demands of the army and give relief to the war victims. But this drive, too, produced a harmful effect because some officials conducted it in a bureaucratic way.

From the outset of starting this movement, the central body fixed a three-month term for the production of fabrics. But, in order to perform a glorious feat by completing the task before the deadline, the province shortened this term by 20 days, the county by another 20, the sub-county again by 20 days and the ri by yet another 20 days. In the end, only ten days were left out of the set term of 90 days for the people, the actual producers. Such being the case, some peasants could not do anything else but give up the cloth they had put away for a daughter's or son's marriage, and those peasants who did not even possess such cloth ended up buying it in the market at high prices. Owing to these bureaucrats this splendid social movement resulted in inconvenience to the people, as well as in a harmful effect.

In this way the bureaucracy of the officials brought about such grave consequences as these which diminish the prestige of the organs of people's power, divorce the masses of people from the people's power and lose their creative initiative.

Without getting rid of the bureaucratic style of work and establishing the popular style of work instead, it was impossible to rally the masses closely around the Party and mobilize them in the fight for the victory of the Fatherland Liberation War.

With a view to resolving this problem the great leader called the Joint Meeting of People's Committee Chairmen and Leading Party Functionaries of Provinces, Cities and Counties on February 1, 1952, at which he made an historic speech, "The Tasks and Role of the Local Organs of Power at the Present Stage".

In his speech the great leader again gave a comprehensive clarification of the character and features of the organs of people's power and the functions and role of its organs. He sharply criticized the bureaucratic practices manifested amongst the officials. His penetrating analysis and severe criticism of their ideological root cause and harmfulness, citing them one after another, reminded the officials seriously of their past work: once they are elected by the people, they start using difficult words and behaving in an arrogant and bureaucratic manner; they issue orders and commands instead of educating and persuading the masses or bring unjustified pressure to bear upon their subordinates instead of helping them to work harder; while dictating to people and making arbitrary decisions, they justify their highhandedness as inevitable under the "wartime conditions", from which they themselves find relief.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung had this to say on the subject of establishing the popular work method and style

amongst all the officials of the organs of people's power:

“The officials of the organs of people's power must be genuine workers for the people, who rely on the people in work, pay regard to their interests, persuade and educate them instead of dictating to them, always learn from them and serve them in all sincerity.”

The historic February speech brought about a great turn in strengthening the people's power still further in keeping with the wartime conditions, in combatting bureaucratism and improving the method of work and the style of work on the part of the officials and intensifying the ties between the Party and the masses.

7) “DON'T WORRY, PREMIER!”

It was June 21, 1952. Fierce battles were raging. The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung visited the Ragwon Machine Factory situated in the northwest of our country.

There the great leader, who knew that the Party members of the cast-iron shop were having a Party cell meeting, entered the democratic publicity hall where the meeting was being held and quietly sat down just behind them. The chairman who was standing up to make a report, did not know what to do. He stood there dumbfounded for a while with the written report in his hands. Who could have ever dreamed of encountering at the cell meeting of the workshop of their small factory the great leader who was undertaking all the affairs at the front and in the rear, and that it should happen on the very day when the enemy had been indiscriminately bombing the Sinuiju district, a border area in the north. This feeling was shared by all the other members of his Party cell.

Eventually the Party members went on with their meeting. After his report they soon went into a debate, which lasted quite a long time but the great leader listened very carefully to the end. Then he had a friendly chat with the ten members of the Party cell.

He inquired in detail about how their families were and about the difficulties they were experiencing. He spoke of the tasks confronting the Party members of the Ragwon Machine Factory.

He said that our people who were stirred up in the righteous cause against US imperialism that has over one hundred-year history of aggression and war, would surely triumph in the end. He also dwelt on the splendid prospects for the development of their factory after the war was over.

When he said, with full confidence in the triumphant tomorrow of the country, that their factory should be developed into an up-to-date machine factory, their deep-seated faith became even stronger.

“Don’t worry, Premier! If we win the war, the rehabilitation will be no problem. We have already had the experiences of restoring everything that was mercilessly destroyed by the Japanese when they fled in a matter of two or three years and we became well off, didn’t we? We’re sure to make an even better life through another restoration after the war. Don’t worry so much about it.”

These remarks by a woman Party member did not just express her feelings alone, but those of all ten members of the Party cell of the cast-iron shop. Indeed, they were an expression of the unanimous feelings of all the Workers’ Party members and of the people who were out to defend their homeland in the rear.

During the hard-fought days of war, food, clothing, everything was in short supply. Even in such adversity as this

our people were not pessimistic and were able to traverse the only road to victory simply because the respected leader equipped all our Party members and our people so firmly along ideological lines as he implanted the confidence of victory in the hearts of the ten Party members of Ragwon.

8) A PARTY CELL MEETING IN HAJANG-RI

In June, 1952, the great leader arrived at Hajang-ri, Pukjung Sub-county of Ryongchon County in North Pyongan Province. On being informed that a Party cell was holding a meeting so as to review the rice-planting situation and ensure the success of the rice weeding, he decided to go there to meet the members.

The great leader opened the door quietly, and went into the room where they were having the meeting. A carbide lamp was lit in the room, the windows of which were all screened by blankets lest any light should leak out. The lamp was shedding its dim light only on the place nearest the fireplace, and the faces of the people sitting around, away from the fireplace, were shadowed by the faint light.

The meeting proceeded in a tense atmosphere. The screened windows would shake occasionally with the explosion of the enemy bombing, which made the atmosphere more strained.

The great leader sat down quietly on the heated floor away from the fireplace, and listened to the report attentively. No one noticed him.

The report was then followed by a discussion.

“Even though we break down from exhaustion in the rice

paddies, we must tighten our belts and grow good crops, and so supply rice to our husbands and brothers who are fighting at the front. Could we surrender to this trifling hardship?... Let's defend our land to the last, the land distributed by the fatherly leader General Kim Il Sung, which our valiant People's Army soldiers are defending with their lives. Let's send more provisions to the front by weeding the fields efficiently and gathering in a bumper harvest. Let all of our Party members stand at the head of our people, and lead them forward." It was an impassioned appeal. It was made by a woman Party member, a dependent of a People's Army serviceman.

Then, the platoon leader of the self-defence force criticized himself for not discharging his Party assignments faithfully and then went on to criticize the work of the woman in charge of the democratic publicity hall.

The Party members were deeply moved when their meeting went into recess and they found the great leader himself in their midst.

The great leader ran his affectionate eyes over their faces that were suffused with emotion. He suggested they take a breath of fresh air and walked into the yard.

Silence reigned all over the rural villages on this early summer night, with the searchlight occasionally flashing across the nocturnal sky studded with stars. The muffled sound of an organ could be heard in the distance. It was followed by the resonant singing of women.

*While cranes fly over the ridges of Mount Paekdu,
Cuckoos sing across the liberated country.
O the land was given by the General
How nice, how happy! Let all of us come out
To go to plough our land.*

Their song was ringing out rhythmically from the democratic publicity hall.

The great leader strained his ears to catch the sound for a while. Then he asked in a low voice:

“Is the comrade who plays the organ a teacher?”

“No. A peasant.”

“Um, she’s an amateur artist....”

The great leader walked slowly, listening to the sound of music ringing out of the publicity hall. Then he said: “Let’s resume our meeting.”

At the meeting, he said, as far as a rural Party cell meeting was concerned, it was very vivid and successful. The Party members actively discussed important matters and advanced many constructive proposals. He gave the woman Party member who had just expressed her ardent feelings that she would defend her rural community with her life a look of admiration. He went on: “The comrade who took the floor first spoke very well. Should we all make up our minds as she did, nothing would be beyond our capability. She was resolved to send provisions to the husbands and brothers fighting at the front by farming better even though she should collapse with exhaustion in the rice paddies. What a fine resolve! If the People’s Army soldiers at the front were to hear this woman speaking, they would redouble their determination to thwart at least one more Yankee. It is only when you work harder in the rear that they will emerge victorious at the front. I have also been greatly inspired by her words. There is no difficulty that a strong will cannot surmount.”

A hushed silence again reigned in the hall. The Party members were listening closely, bearing deep in mind every word the great leader said.

He looked around the people in the hall for a while. Then he asked them who was in charge of the democratic publicity

hall. And then he said in a soft voice:

“Party members must develop mutual criticism positively in order to rectify errors in all their work. A moment ago the comrade platoon leader of the self-defence force has criticized reasonably. Party members must carry out their Party assignments and decisions unconditionally. Self-criticism and mutual criticism, the forceful weapon of the Party, are indispensable to the development of work.”

As he awakened them to their flaws in the kind way that parents do to their children, even the woman in charge of the democratic publicity hall, who was sitting there speechless, with her head dropped, summoned up her courage and raised her head.

Guessing her feeling he smiled broadly and said: “It’s all right if defects are remedied. No one is without fault. Medicine should be taken, however bitter it tastes.”

Under his scrupulous care the militant functions of the primary Party organizations were increased and the vanguard role of their membership enhanced. As a result, our rear became more solid.

9) “DON’T WAKE UP THE HOSTESS.”

In May, 1952, the great leader visited Wonhwa-ri, Tongam Sub-county, Taedong County, South Pyongan Province. It was early in the morning when even the diligent peasants were still fast asleep. His entourage intended to hurry into a farmhouse and obtain a room for the great leader.

“Don’t wake up the hostess. She’s sound asleep now and you’ll make her awfully tired. Let’s have a rest here in the yard. She’ll get up soon,” he said. Then he added, reading

their thoughts: "It doesn't matter. It's very good to take some fresh air in the yard." He sat down on rice-straw bundles and waited for a long time until the hostess of the house woke up.

At dawn the hostess came out of her house. She was quite at a loss what to do in the presence of the great leader.

The great leader went out to the field. The morning sun was shining over the top of the mountain, and the savoury smell of the soil filled the air.

The farmers were on their way to the field accompanied by oxen with camouflages on their backs.

The great leader sat down on the grass, although the chairwoman of the ri women's union offered him a mat. He asked her everything about the farming: how matters stood with the ploughing; how many fields had been sown; which strains of seed had been secured; and how they were coping with the shortage of manpower and draught cattle.

Then he asked his entourage what they thought, as they had come to the field today, of the idea of going to help the peasants in sowing seeds. With this, he himself prepared to work.

They all agreed. They removed their coats and gathered around him.

The great leader spread seeds, and, holding a carrier's basket in his hand, he applied manure to the field. Then he explained to his men the details of farming.

Meanwhile, he gave the peasants explanations in plain and simple words while he worked with them: producing more provisions at present is very important, sufficient amounts of cereals are essential for winning victory in the war and for stabilizing the impoverished livelihood of the people; therefore, our Party has advanced the slogan "The struggle for food is a struggle for the country and for victory at the front."; producing more food by growing good crops is the

obligation of our peasants, and also an honourable yet worthwhile task that will be greatly conducive to achieving the final victory in the Fatherland Liberation War; and so forth.

While at recess on the edge of the field he also talked with the elders, offering them cigarettes. He treated them so frankly that they had a heart-to-heart talk with him about the farming situation. He listened carefully and said that it was a very good thing that in Wonhwari they were farming together, helping each other by forming oxen-sharing and labour-exchanging teams. He added that they would find their work easier and also use draught cattle and farm implements more rationally if several families each pooled their efforts in the teams and that they should work harder at cooperating with each other by organizing more teams in the future.

That day the great leader also told the villagers about the brilliant prospects of agricultural cooperativization and of the building of Wonhwa village.

In spite of the pressure of his work, the respected leader roused our peasants to wartime agricultural production, spending one spring day with the Wonhwa villagers.

10) FAR-SIGHTED PLANS FOR POSTWAR REHABILITATION

In the grimmest days of war the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung worked out far-sighted plans for the country's postwar rehabilitation and laid the groundwork for carrying them out.

It was unprecedented in history to map out the postwar

reconstruction and make preparations for it in the days of war when the destiny of the country and the nation was at stake.

The great leader considered the US imperialists' reckless move a last desperate resort of the doomed and, looking ahead to the postwar days, he accelerated the preparations for the reconstruction with foresight.

In the spring of 1953, the great leader, who had been devoting his all to the victory in the war, without taking even a moment's rest since it first broke out, was in poor health.

So one day the officials of the Party Central Committee and the Cabinet expressed the wish that he would have at least a few days of rest in a safe place.

He refused their offer and, stating the reasons why he could not leave, said in a serious tone of voice that there was no way he could take care of himself alone in the hard-fought days when we had to command battles and fight the enemy who had infiltrated into the Party. Then he spoke in the following vein: The third reason is the problem of the reconstruction of the national economy after the war... I cannot sleep whenever I think how to reconstruct the destroyed national economy after the war. Nowadays I am thinking a lot. Cities and countryside are now reduced to ashes, our national economy has totally deteriorated.... Have we got any cement, bricks, and steel? We have a lot to do. Needless to say, we can successfully reconstruct the national economy. What I ought to do now is to map out plans for the postwar reconstruction and then mature and perfect them.

The great leader had been mapping out these plans for postwar reconstruction from the first days of the war by building up ten if the Americans destroyed one, and one hundred if they demolished ten.

So he had advanced clear-cut ways and means for the postwar reconstruction at the Third Plenary Meeting of the

Party Central Committee held in December, 1950, when battles were raging most fiercely, and pushed forward preparations for it accordingly.

On January 21, 1951, he gave the city planning officials the task of drawing up a general blueprint for the rehabilitation of Pyongyang City, as well as plans for the reconstruction of provincial seats. He even took measures to prepare tree saplings to be planted on the roadside.

Even on his way back from giving battlefield guidance at the front, he matured the far-sighted plan of laying out tens of thousands of hectares of orchard in which all sorts of fruit would thrive. In this way he worked out all the far-sighted plans and matured them, the ones for collectivizing the rural economy, for surmounting the colony-orientated one-sidedness of the industry and laying the foundations for the independent national economy, and for undertaking grand nature reclamation.

The construction of modern bases of the machine-building industry at Huichon and Tokchon, the machine plants that were to play the role of "mother plants" after the war had also been mapped out and their construction commenced during the hard-fought war in order to put an end to the colonial imbalance of industry and lay the foundations of the independent national economy.

The preparatory work for the postwar rehabilitation was not confined to the machine-building and metallurgical industries.

Under the energetic guidance of the great leader, the preparations for the postwar reconstruction of some key branches of industry such as the chemical and coal industries and also of light industry were pressed ahead with. In addition, in the field of the rural economy, state agro-stock farms and farm-machine hire stations were established and

expanded, and such new buds of the agricultural cooperativization as “oxen-sharing teams”, “labour-exchanging teams”, “frontline co-working teams” and “sideline cooperatives” shot out.

Besides laying the material foundations for the postwar reconstruction, the great leader paid close attention to training scientists and technicians.

As early as August, 1951, he issued the Military Commission order, “On Recalling University Graduates and Students”, and recalled these young people from fighting in the trenches to the avenue of the pursuit of science, the avenue of learning. In order to enhance the role of scientists and technicians, he convened a scientists’ conference in April, 1952, in which he clarified the direction and tasks of scientific research work for the rapid development of the postwar national economy. In December of that year he established the Academy of Sciences.

A magnificent blueprint for the postwar reconstruction was mapped out and the material base and technical staff were also prepared. Amid the flames of war the foundations for an ambitious postwar reconstruction programme were laid.

11) A FEATURE FILM *TO THE FRONT LINE AGAIN*

Under the very complex wartime conditions the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung gave meticulous guidance to the writers and artistes in their creative work and performances.

Our writers and artistes had acquired some experience and

achieved some success in their work in the previous period of peaceful construction, but generally their work had yet to attain a very high standard.

Their enthusiasm for creation was high, but they occasionally failed to represent the Party's intention properly through their works.

Therefore, the great leader would go over their works individually, correcting shortcomings in their content and description, and help them to make their works perfect.

The feature film, *To the Front Line Again*, was initially produced under the title, *For the Country*.

When it was reported to him that a new film had been produced, the great leader summoned the creative staff immediately to the Supreme Headquarters. He asked them in detail about the situation in the motion picture industry. Then he watched their new film.

The great leader watched the film with close attention. Afterwards he thought about it for a while before finally saying to the creators that the film did not seem to be very good. He commented that the content of the film was too poor for it to go out under the title, *For the Country*. If the film was to go out under that title, he said, the hero should be described as loving his country and fellow people and doing great work for his country, that mass heroism, rather than the heroism only of the principal character, a soldier, should be portrayed and that the commanding officer should not be presented as one lacking in the art of leadership, as a man only looking through his telescope in a dugout. He also explained in detail how other shortcomings might be corrected.

The creative workers could not raise their heads. They felt deep remorse for having produced a film with so many shortcomings at the cost of such a large amount of money and materials in the difficult circumstances of wartime.

The great leader told them not to be too discouraged by their failure because working men are always liable to make mistakes from time to time. Then he explained how the content of the film should be composed, how the characters should be represented, how the title should be made simple so as to fit in with the content, and so on. He encouraged them to try again and make a good film this time.

The great leader went out of the room and the creative workers followed him. When they were out in front of the High-Command building, the great leader stood in the yard and beckoned them to him. He raised his hand and pointed at the building. He remarked that the country's High Command was working in that simple building. He asked them whether the field hospital in the film was too large and luxurious to be believable. He told them that reality should be represented truthfully. He wanted to teach them by means of a concrete example.

The film artistes worked hard to remake the film. At last they perfected it under a new title, *To the Front Line Again*, and sent him the new version.

The great leader watched the film and was very satisfied with it. He remarked that it gave a good portrayal of our people's heroic struggle to defend every inch of the country and that it captured the heroic spirit and revolutionary optimism that was being displayed by the soldiers of the People's Army.

12) THE FIFTH PLENARY MEETING OF THE PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE

The enemy, albeit doomed to failure, tried to attack more

frantically, drawing on his numerical and technical superiority.

The great leader who was watching the enemy's every move concentrated on strengthening the Party organizationally and ideologically before all else as the decisive measure to win final victory in the war.

At that time the Party had some problems that had to be solved without delay.

After the Fourth Plenary Meeting, the membership of the Party had expanded quickly. But there was a discrepancy between its numerical growth and its quality.

Some Party members who were not well trained were placing their own personal interests above those of the Party and the revolution and indulging in self-preservation without regard to revolutionary principles.

Worse still, the factionalists who had been lurking in the Party for a long time had set to work insidiously, taking advantage of the difficult circumstances, and were obstructing the Party's unity and solidarity.

Because of these factors it was necessary for our Party to make itself stronger than ever. Unless it did so, it would not be able to lead forcefully all the people and the People's Army to fight and defeat the enemy's "new offensive" and achieve eventual victory in the war.

The great leader took into account the prevailing situation and the requirements of the developing revolution and convened the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea on December 15, 1952, in order to take decisive measures to strengthen the Party. At this meeting he delivered an historic report, "The Organizational and Ideological Consolidation of the Party Is the Basis for Our Victory".

In his report the great leader set the task of strengthening the Party organizationally and ideologically. He exposed and flayed some Party members who lacked the Party spirit, those who were politically corrupt, looking out for personal interests and paying no heed to the interests of the Party and the revolution, violating Party discipline instead of obeying its decisions and interests, who were lethargic in work and loafing away their time from one day to another in an attempt to preserve themselves. In particular, he stressed the need to combat uncompromisingly the factionalists who were trying to undermine the unity and solidarity of the Party.

In those days the factionalists were mustering those elements with a tendency towards provincialism, those who were discontented with their positions and those who had been penalized by the Party. To those who had complicated backgrounds, they said that the Party did not trust them. Thus they made them waver and were drawing them around themselves. These factionalists displayed a keen interest when it came to the appointment and allocation of cadres while remaining quite indifferent to other matters. They tried indiscriminately to appoint to high office those with whom they were on intimate terms or who had once belonged to their groups, without regard to their level of ideological consciousness or ability. They even made zealous attempts to appoint renegades from the revolution to high posts.

They also kept dark the unsavoury facts in each other's past "revolutionary careers", logrolling and shielding each other, and they used to drive wedges between cadres by taking advantage of any differences or discord between them in the hope of getting something out of it for themselves.

They used to feign outward support for the Party line but opposed it behind the scenes. They agreed to everything in word but deviated in thought. They pretended to be faithful to

people in their presence but played underhand tricks behind their backs.

In his report, the great leader said that it must be remembered that the factional elements, if left alone, would eventually turn into enemy agents. He stressed that if factionalism was to be overcome, it was necessary to temper the membership's Party loyalty constantly, tighten Party discipline, and thoroughly implement the principle of democratic centralism in Party life.

He called upon the entire Party to increase revolutionary vigilance, keep a close eye on the moves of the factionalists, and combat them uncompromisingly in accordance with the Party principle.

Following the plenary meeting, a discussion of the document of the plenary meeting was held throughout the Party. Through this process the members' Party loyalty was enhanced as never before and they came to display a high degree of enthusiasm and creativity, while factionalism and all other anti-Party tendencies were exposed.

In the heat of the Party-wide ideological struggle the anti-Party, counterrevolutionary crimes committed by the Pak Hon Yong clique before and after liberation were brought to light. He had surrendered to the Japanese imperialists and betrayed the revolution a long time before, and had become the paid spy of the US imperialists. He had cunningly concealed his true colours for a long time and had done enormous harm to the Korean revolution. After liberation, during the war in particular, he had worked more aggressively against the Party and the revolution.

The fiendish Pak Hon Yong clique gathered heterogeneous elements of every description around itself, sabotaged the work of the Party and state, tried to divorce the Party from

the people by slandering Party and state policies, and passed the secrets of our Party, state and military to the US intelligence agencies. When Eisenhower was preparing a “new offensive”, Pak Hon Yong planned to set off an “armed revolt” in cooperation with the attacking enemy to overthrow the Party and Government and sell out our people totally to the US imperialists. This counterrevolutionary plot was never forgiven.

During the two years and more of the war the great leader moved his field command post on a number of occasions while commanding the war efforts at the front. He made continual journeys to give on-the-spot guidance at innumerable places both at the front and in the rear.

He found himself under enemy air raids wherever he went, and had to constantly expose his life to danger.

Recollecting an incident that occurred when he was directing North Pyongan Province in the field in June, 1952, the respected leader spoke in the following vein:

One day during the war I talked about the task of ensuring wartime production at a meeting of the North Pyongan Provincial Party Committee. Then I left Sinuiju for the Uiju airfield and stayed there overnight. The Americans bombed it; it was as if they knew I was there. I wondered how could they know I was there. The following morning I was due to leave to go on to Supung. The advance party had already started out for Supung. In the car after leaving Uiju I found myself in a strange mood. So I said we should go to Panmak Pass via Chongsong. When I arrived on the pass American planes were flying over Supung and dropping bombs on it. While looking down from the pass at the town under the enemy air raid, I thought the matter over. If I had taken the route to Supung, I would have no doubt been caught in the air raid at the town, judging from the distance. At the moment

the advance party had already arrived at Pupung, having passed through Supung.

When we arrived at Sakju after the bombing was over, my aide-de-camp asked me whether I would not visit the county Party office. "No." I said, "the county Party officials must have gone to inspect Supung because their town was bombed. If we visit the county Party office the officials will have to come back." I told him to go straight to the Kang Gon Military Academy and we did.

That night we stayed at the military academy...

Strangely enough, enemy planes flew over again and bombed us. Well, the enemy bombed Sinuiju, Uiju, Supung; they were following us wherever we went, and even bombing that mountain valley. Later I found out that this was due to the work of the Pak Hon Yong and Li Sung Yop clique. The spies were so cunning and wicked.

The clique of Pak Hon Yong, the spy hired by the US imperialists, would stop at nothing.

While discussing the document of the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Party Central Committee, the Party members' loyalty was enhanced while this clique's conspiracy was detected and exposed.

We fought the war with the enemy's spy lurking in our camp; in effect, we fought with our state and military secrets open to the enemy.

The Fifth Plenary Meeting occasioned the organizational and ideological strengthening of our Party and the strong political and ideological unity of the masses of the people.

13) THE ENEMY'S "NEW OFFENSIVE" CRUSHED

Towards the end of 1952 the situation at the front was very tense. At that time the enemy was preparing a new, reckless offensive in accordance with their plan for extending the war, a plan conceived by the warmaniac Eisenhower who was about to become the new President of the United States.

In December he came to south Korea and discussed his plan for extending the war with the high-ranking officers of his aggressor army and his south Korean minions. He even inspected the front line and openly clamoured that action was better than negotiations.

They called the massive offensive based on Eisenhower's adventurist scheme of aggression their "new offensive".

In order to counter the enemy's attempt at this "new offensive", the great leader made sure that all Party organizations discussed the document of the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Party Central Committee in the context of the preparations to defeat the enemy's "new offensive". In January, 1953, he sent the letter of the Party Central Committee to all the Party organizations and all its members, a letter which called upon them to fight a do-or-die battle.

Further, on February 8, 1953, the great leader issued orders to the officers and men of the People's Army, the orders that roused them to the fight for final victory in the Fatherland Liberation War.

He concentrated on building perfect tunnel-type defences all along the front line and saw to it that forces were massed in the coastal areas where enemy landings seemed probable so

these areas, too, were fortified by building tunnel-type defences.

As a result, the construction of defensive fortifications was pushed forward along both the front line and the coasts, the movements of the units got under way, and large amounts of weapons and technical equipment were distributed on the front and in the coastal areas.

The soldiers of the People's Army made ready for the do-or-die battle to defend every inch of the land, and the people on the home front also took their stand in the struggle to increase the production of war supplies for victory in the war.

The enemy brought over large numbers of troops and quantities of war supplies, including weapons and ammunition, from America and other regions. The bulk of the US Seventh Fleet was ordered into our waters and preparations were made for landing operations for the "new offensive".

Meanwhile, the enemy organized several new divisions consisting of able-bodied south Koreans and sent them to the front.

On January 25, 1953, the enemy launched an attack on Height T, west of Cholwon, in order to carry out the "new offensive". They claimed that this was "the spearhead of their attack".

This operation, which was conducted under the direct command of Van Fleet, Commander of the US Eighth Army, was a prelude to the "new offensive".

The enemy pounded this small hill with innumerable bombs and shells for more than ten days. They then tried to capture it at one stroke with a massive infantry assault with the support of their air force, artillery and armour.

Our defenders repelled their frantic onslaught three times by relying on their strong tunnel-type fortifications and inflicted heavy losses on them in a fierce counterattack.

The enemy said that their attack on Height T would be a “model military action”. They invited the Commander of the US 5th Air Force and other high-ranking army and air-force officers and civilian officials and even the “UNC” war correspondents to come and witness this demonstration of their strength. But their attempt ended in a fiasco.

The enemy was thrown into terrible confusion. The US imperialist military leaders flew to Seoul in haste to remedy the confusion.

However, their effort to save the situation was futile because the fiasco was not the work of any accidental factor but the result of our defenders’ crushing strikes. The defeat triggered off a heated argument in which the feasibility of the “new offensive” itself was called into question.

The enemy had massed all their arms and services and modern weapons for the attack on the small hill only to suffer a miserable defeat. If an offensive was launched all along the line, what would become of it? The enemy imagined a disastrous outcome and trembled. One of them complained that the offensive would take a toll of “at least 50,000” men and “if the worst comes to the worst, none of us might survive if attacked on both sides.”

In the long run the enemy had to abandon the “new offensive” which they had prepared with all their reserve forces.

14) HARD STRIKES AIMED AT FINAL VICTORY

Since the attempt to launch their “new offensive” had failed, the US imperialist aggressors turned up at the con-

ference hall for the armistice negotiations.

The truce talks, which had ended in deadlock six months previously, were resumed on April 26, 1953.

The enemy, however, would not readily agree to a ceasefire. They made a foolish attempt to recover at the conference table the prestige which had been tarnished on the battlefield. They reiterated the unwarranted argument about "voluntary repatriation" of prisoners of war.

The enemy side provoked our side by detaining prisoners of war from our side in south Korea on the pretext of "freeing them" At the instigation of the Americans, the puppet Syngman Rhee clique clamoured that it was "deadset in its opposition to a truce" and was considering making a "single-handed push north".

Meanwhile, they perpetrated indiscriminate bombing over our home front with an eye to bringing us to our knees under "pressure of aerial bombardment" and having their preposterous proposal accepted.

The great leader divined their ulterior purpose and decided to foil their new stratagem by delivering massive blows at them. He planned audacious operations to win final victory in the Fatherland Liberation War.

The great leader indicated the strike targets, the scope of each strike, and the order of priority and the methods by which the strikes should be carried out. He gave detailed instructions on the formation of our strike forces and their preparations. He also made sure that powerful strikes were directed at the enemy forces in the eastern sector of the front in particular.

In mid-May, 1953, our forces made thirty powerful attacks on more than twenty objectives and killed 4,000 enemy troops. They destroyed large quantities of enemy weapons and equipment and occupied many hills which gave

them a favourable strategic advantage for launching further attacks.

Our forces struck the frightened and confused enemy again and captured Height 811.7 and then launched an attack on Height 351 without giving the enemy breathing space. The enemy had attached great tactical importance to Height 351. They had fortified it with up-to-date engineering technology while 100 naval vessels and hundreds of airplanes provided additional cover.

More than 150 field guns and howitzers directed a barrage at the height, and the infantrymen assaulted and captured it in only 15 minutes. The enemy forces had described the height as an “impregnable fortress”, and bragged that they would not surrender it even if they were to give up Seoul.

The enemy made frantic efforts to recover Height 351.

In an attempt to reoccupy this hill the enemy launched a fierce counterattack under the cover of supporting fire from two cruisers and ten other naval ships and 400 to 500 airplanes every day. On the hill do-or-die battles took place to repel the enemy's counterattacks.

The defenders of Height 351 resisted the counterattacking enemy for more than 50 days and held out heroically to the last.

The two crushing strikes drove the US imperialist invaders into a tighter corner. The enemy at last withdrew their preposterous claims regarding the repatriation of prisoners of war on which they had been insisting for 18 months, and agreement was finally reached on this issue. The truce negotiations moved one step forward.

However, the Americans were planning fresh acts of provocation under cover of the armistice talks. The great leader saw through their scheme and ordered another massive strike at the enemy.

On the night of July 13 our forces attacked designated hills and the salient in the Kumhwa area under powerful artillery support.

The enemy-held hills were literally submerged in a sea of fire. All the enemy fortifications that had been built up over the previous two years, including barriers and obstacles, weapons systems and the command communications network, were blown up by our crushing strike, and the enemy's line crumbled.

Between the middle of May and the end of July, our forces made three heavy strikes against the enemy and inflicted heavy losses. They liberated an area of approximately 340 square kilometres. The dream of the US imperialist marauders to push the military demarcation line northward came to nothing.

Seeing no alternative, the American imperialists withdrew all their piratical claims and signed the Armistice Agreement at ten o'clock on July 27, 1953, admitting their surrender.

They were brought to their knees by the Korean people on the line where they had provoked the war.

The "UNC" commander Clark who signed the Armistice Agreement said:

"In carrying out the instructions of my government, I gained the unenviable distinction of being the first United States Army commander in history to sign an Armistice without victory."

The former US Secretary of State Marshall said:

"The myth has been exploded. We were not as strong a nation as others used to think us to be."

15) THE PLAZA OF WAR VICTORY

The great Fatherland Liberation War ended in victory for the Korean people. The guns ceased roaring and the powder fumes gradually faded away.

The three years of war against the formidable enemy, the US imperialists, was an unprecedentedly harsh trial for our people, so our people's rejoicing at their victory was beyond compare.

The American imperialists mobilized for the Korean war two million troops and enormous quantities of up-to-date weapons and equipment—one third of their army, one fifth of their air force, the bulk of their Pacific fleet, the armies of their 15 satellites and Syngman Rhee's puppet army. They employed 73,000,000 tons of war supplies, eleven times the quantity they had used in the Pacific theatre during the Second World War. These fiends even resorted to the most savage and cruel method of warfare, chemical and germ warfare.

However, still they could not succeed in conquering our people. Still they could not save themselves from bitter and humiliating defeat. They lost 1,567,000 troops including 405,000 Americans. In terms of hardware they lost 12,200 airplanes, 3,250 tanks and armoured cars, 560 naval vessels of different types, plus a large number of other weapons and equipment. Their losses in these terms were nearly 2.3 times what they suffered in the Pacific theatre during the four years of the Second World War.

This was how they recorded the first shameful defeat in the history of their aggressive wars fought over the past century.

This was how they were brought to their knees before the Korean people.

The world public admired the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, who smashed the myth of the “strength” of the US imperialists and put them on the downhill path, as a “brilliant general of modern warfare”, a “great military strategist”, a “great leader of the anti-imperialist and anti-US struggle” and “a source of inspiration for all struggles for national liberation”.

On July 28, 1953, the Presidium of the Supreme People’s Assembly awarded him the title of Hero of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea in accordance with the unanimous desire of the Korean people.

That day a grand mass rally was held in Pyongyang, the heroic city that withstood the grim trials of war, to celebrate the victory of the Fatherland Liberation War.

Crowds of people, the heroic soldiers who held out to the last on the hills of the country, the workers and farmers who performed great exploits in wartime production, and the citizens of Pyongyang who defended the heroic city from the enemy’s saturation bombings, thronged to the glorious square arranged for the victors.

The square swayed with the people who were in an ecstasy of pride and delight.

At ten o’clock in the morning the respected leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, the great military strategist and ever-victorious iron-willed brilliant commander, mounted the platform of the mass rally amidst enthusiastic cheers that shook the whole square.

The great leader, with a bright smile on his face, acknowledged the cheers by raising his hand high.

How long our people had awaited this moment!

Through all the harsh trials and adversity of the war they

had devoted themselves totally to the cause of victory.

Now the people in the crowd wept as they shouted their cheers over and over again in expression of their high esteem for him.

From the high rostrum the Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Il Sung delivered an historic speech, "On the Conclusion of the Armistice Agreement", to the jubilant crowds.

The Supreme Commander made a full review and analysis of the victory in the war and the factors that had contributed to our triumph. He explained clearly what our people had to do after the war. He called upon the whole nation to rise up under the militant slogan, "Everything for the postwar rehabilitation and development of the national economy to strengthen the democratic base!"

A triumphant parade and a magnificent mass demonstration took place in the square.

The whole scene in the square was a proud demonstration of the might of our people who are capable of defeating any enemy whatsoever, the invincible power of the Korean people who were united rock-firm around the great leader.

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Anecdotes from the Great History

This book carries an official's recollections of the great communistic virtues of the beloved leader Comrade Kim Il Sung. The official has worked under his direct leadership for a long time.

It was published by the Foreign Languages Publishing House, DPRK, between 1987 and 1988 in English, Russian, Chinese, Japanese, French and Spanish.



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